

The Crumb

The Daily Bulletin of the Bread Loaf School of English

Volume 88, Number 1

Tuesday, June 26, 2007

Quotable

*"A Book
of Verses
underneath the
Bough / A Jug
of Wine, a Loaf
of Bread – and
Thou / Beside
me singing in
the Wilderness–
Oh, Wilderness
were Paradise
enow!"*

–Omar Khayyam,
trans. Fitzgerald

Events

9 a.m.–4 p.m.
Registration
Blue Parlor

6 p.m.
Opening Banquet
Dining Hall

7:30 p.m.
**Opening
Ceremony**
Little Theater

Menu

Summer salad with
melon; tenderloin
or vegetable paella;
horseradish gratin;
summer roasted
vegetables and
slow-roasted
tomatoes; apple pie
for dessert.

Weather

Today:
Sunny and torrid.
High 93, low 67.

Tomorrow:
Isolated storms,
93/69.

Thursday:
Morning showers,
but cooler. 79/53.

You Can't Have the Loaf Without the "D'Oh!"

Welcome (or welcome back) to Bread Loaf Vermont! You join a long list of esteemed visitors to this campus, a list that includes literary giants such as Frost, Cather, Heaney, and even Homer. Simpson, that is – the entire family visited "WordLoaf" in an episode that aired last fall. Although Michael Chabon and Jonathan Franzen exchanged blows and insults ("You fight like Anne Rice!") in that episode, we assure you that all School of English faculty members have pledged not to indulge in any derisive language towards, or physical violence against, each other. At least in public.

Your first order of business today is to stop by the Blue Parlor (in the back of the Inn) to register for the summer anytime between 9 and 4 today. After that, you're free to spend the day unpacking, exploring the campus, buying textbooks, and meeting friends old and new.

At 6:00, return to the Inn in "smart casual" attire for the Opening Banquet, after which the throng will adjourn to the Burgess Meredith Little Theater for the official opening of the 88th summer of the Bread Loaf School of English. There, Director Jim Maddox, Associate Director Emily Bartels, and Middlebury College President Ron Liebowitz will welcome you to Vermont, discourse on Bread Loaf's peculiar origin myth and its even more peculiar origin text, introduce this year's faculty and Acting Ensemble, and announce the big events of the summer. Refreshments will follow on the West Lawn.

Inn Hospitable Place

Innkeepers Edward and Victoria Brown, assisted by Kalli Federhofer, Peter Newton, MacNair Randall, and Matt Fiorentino, run Bread Loaf's nerve center, the Front Desk. Today, one of them welcomed you, handed you this publication, and pointed you in the right direction. All summer long, they'll cash your checks, route incoming calls, sell Cokes and candy, sort and send mail, and provide refuge to lost objects until they become found. When in doubt about anything, the Front Desk is a good place to get advice or an answer.

New students already know that the Bread Loaf Office staff is capable of answering any question, quelling any anxiety, and navigating any logistical morass. In fact, the only feats beyond their powers are altering the fickle Vermont weather and halting time to allow you to meet that looming essay deadline.

See Elaine Lathrop, Susan Holcomb, or Karen Browne in the main Bread Loaf office in the rear of the Inn if you need to change courses, make an appointment with one of the Directors, or use the School's fax machine (for a nominal fee). In the Inn Seminar Room (just out the back door of the Inn), Judy Jessup and Sandy LeGault can answer your questions about fellowships, transferring credits, or letters of recommendation.

Director-y Assistants

Jen Hansum, Christie Beveridge, and Eric Eye, this summer's Assistants to the Director, will provide you with refreshments at receptions and Barn dances, show the Friday night films, enforce the 11 p.m. noise ordinance, and perform myriad other duties in front of and behind the scenes. School of English alums all, they will be happy to tell you stories about the hardships of their schooldays (no Chef Jim, no wireless access – the horror, the horror!), although anecdotes about how Robert Frost used to dandle them on his knee when they were mere striplings should be taken with a grain of salt.

Tomorrow's a New Day

All students new to Bread Loaf or just new to the Vermont campus are cordially invited to an informal welcome reception tomorrow at 5:00 in the Barn. This is merely a chance for new students to meet Jim Maddox, Emily Bartels, and one another. It is not – I repeat, *not* – a Directorial ploy to check whether you pass muster by dropping made-up but vaguely academic-sounding terms ("metaconstitutive," "post-teleohistoricist") into small talk, then seeing whether you say "Yes, I certainly agree" or "Me no like big scary words."

A Lesson Before Dining

You'll see the best minds of your generation hysterical (in Week 5, when the paper crunch hits) and naked (at the occasional post-dance skinny dip), but never, ever starving, thanks to Chef Jim Logan's delectable culinary offerings.

Breakfast begins promptly at 7:30, lunch at 12:45, and dinner at 6:00. From Sunday dinner through Friday lunch, meals are sit-down affairs where you will be served by our crack Waitstaff, under the leadership of Headwaiter Steve Suomi. Please remember that your waiter is not a mere minion sequestered in this remote locale purely to do your mealtime bidding, but a fellow student with classes to attend and papers to write, just like you. So arrive on time and don't linger over yet another cup of coffee, lest you force Steve to resort to imaginative and painful uses of the salad tongs to prod you towards the exit.

Accept Your Lot in Life

After you've unpacked, you *must* move your vehicle to the large lot in front of the Barn (unless you live at Gilmore, Brandy Brook, or Tamarack, in which case you're allowed to park at your dorm). You may *not* park along Route 125, nor may you park behind the Inn, as doing so obstructs emergency vehicles and food delivery trucks. If you can't correctly interpret the numerous "No Parking" signs in these locations, perhaps you should reconsider the wisdom of pursuing a graduate degree in English.

Cellar's Market

Bread Loaf's modest bookstore, located in the rear of the Annex, is but a shadow of the enterprise Joseph Battell dreamed of when he proposed to his neighbor Homer Noble that they should go into business together. Battell would provide the retail space (a disused wing of his spacious barn), while Noble would underwrite the 240,000 title inventory. The fruit of their ambition, known as "Barns & Noble," suffered from its unpromising location in the middle of nowhere and quickly foundered; today, the coffee bar is the only remnant of the Barn's previous incarnation as a megastore.

The current bookstore stocks course texts, office supplies, health & beauty products, snacks, phone cards, and Bread Loaf paraphernalia that will proclaim "I'm an English geek who spends summers at reading camp, and I don't care who knows it!" to all who behold you. Business hours are 3-5:30 today and 8:30-12:30 on subsequent weekdays. Initially, please purchase texts only for classes in which you are enrolled. There will still be surplus copies of *The Faerie Queene* available later on for use as doorstops, high-density insect swatters, free weights, or even a little light pleasure reading.

Techs of the D'Urbervilles

If you'd like to know how to post your Thomas Hardy essay to a BreadNet forum or (more urgently) how to rescue that same @&#\$(! Thomas Hardy essay from the *&#(*&@# zip drive that appears to have eaten it, hie thee to the Apple Cellar (beneath the Library), where Caroline Eisner and her student assistants will pit their technological wizardry against your particular dilemma. Please refrain from using the computers to play games, leave all food and drink outside, and scrupulously pay for your laser printing – we operate on the honor system but prefer that you adopt Odysseus' definition of "honor," not Falstaff's.

Wireless Capacity Available at Loaf Since 1904

Granted, at first all that meant was that Inn guests could crowd around a primitive radio for Morse code transmissions from the Lake Champlain shipping channels. Now, however, the major communal buildings (Inn, Barn, Library) are all equipped with routers, so you can access the Net (Inter- or Bread-) between classes (no problem there), at lunch (socially inadvisable), or even in the midst of Saturday's Square Dance (physically impractical, given that you'll need to have *both* hands free to do the Birdie in the Cage properly).

Patients Must Not Minister to Themselves

Instead, they should stagger, hobble, or limp across Route 125 to the Cornwall Clinic. (New students fear not: the building gets its name from a neighboring town and not from the thoroughly un-Hippocratic *King Lear* eye-gouger.) There, the registered nurses on staff can provide care for most routine medical issues, including writer's cramp and paper cuts. Writer's block, unfortunately, is a condition beyond their formidable talents and may require "alternative medicine" in the form of a Frost Trail circuit or a salubrious outing to the Waybury.

Clinic hours are posted on the front door. In an emergency, always call an ambulance first (911), then alert the Front Desk. For an after-hours emergency, call the ambulance, then extension 2713 (Ed & Victoria) or 9-388-7703 (Jim Maddox).

Your First Paper Is Due Tomorrow

There are those among us who find the *Crumb*'s extremely local focus woefully insufficient and choose to supplement their news with the *New York Times*. *Times* subscribers can pick up their copies at the Front Desk starting tomorrow, but should be warned that the *Crumb* Bum plans to lurk in the Inn lobby, note any such persons, then spread scurrilous and blissfully unfounded gossip about them in future *Crumbs* for their perceived ingratitude.

I Celebrate My Cell, and Sing My Cell

I do not think that it will sing to you, however, as our remote location renders cell phones pretty much inoperable. Either head down the mountain to acquire some signal bars or appreciate anew the vintage technology of the "phone card."

Campus phone directories are located near each dorm phone. Bread Loaf's main number (802-443-2700) rings at the Front Desk; while the staff will relay incoming calls to dorm phones until 11 each evening, outsiders can dial you directly at any hour by adding your floor's four-digit extension to (802)-443. To place an outgoing call, simply dial 9 and then the area code and number. To reach the Front Desk, dial 2700; dialing 0 from a dorm phone will connect you to the Middlebury College's main switchboard, where no one will understand your questions about Suppressed Desires or Old Piney.

Please practice considerate phone usage in your dorm. Take messages unto others as you would have them take yours unto you, and be mindful of your neighbors; nattering on to your sweetie pie or your Aunt Estelle into the wee hours might inspire an irate hallmate struggling through *Crime and Punishment* to inflict some of both upon you. If you find your dorm phone being unkindly monopolized, there's a pay phone in the Inn lobby and a phone booth curiously situated outside the laundry room.

To An Athlete Dying To Play

Because we're not just about the life of the *mind* here, Bread Loaf offers a formidable array of sporting pursuits. Pickup games of Ultimate Frisbee, volleyball, and soccer are after-dinner staples. The tennis courts will soon be athwack with Wimbleloaf matches. Yoga participants of all levels gather for weekday and weekend sessions. And given the runaway success of last summer's inaugural tournament, the return of the "Bocce-nalia" seems imperative.

If you're a jogger, a walker, a hiker, or a biker, you'll no doubt take advantage of the abundance of paths and roads around Bread Loaf – some paved, some less traveled, and perhaps even a few still lying in leaves no step has trodden black.

Middlebury College boasts slightly tonier facilities, including a field house with indoor track, fitness center, basketball courts, a climbing wall, and a natatorium, which is just a fancy word for pool intended to make you forget that John's Pond has *far* more tadpoles. Admission is free; just bring your ID. (Hey, Huddle, check out that *rhymed couplet*. How you like me now?) And while \$85 is more than free, it's still a ridiculously low price for a summer membership at Middlebury's friendly but challenging 18-hole golf course.

Our Library Is Dukedom Large Enough

The Davison Library houses all the reserve texts for every Bread Loaf course as well as a relatively thorough collection of literature, with anything else from Middlebury's extensive library holdings easily summoned from campus with a few keystrokes. Chris Brady and the rest of this summer's Davison staff can minister to your every bibliotechnical need.

The *Crumb* cannot emphasize this strenuously enough: typing is *not* allowed on the main floor in Davison. Those bent on flouting this regulation are warned that annoyed Bread Loafers know exactly which books in the Davison collection – *Ulysses*, *War and Peace*, the late novels of Henry James – possess the ideal density with which to bludgeon inconsiderate keyboardists senseless. Lug your laptop upstairs, where you may word-process and e-mail happy and unbruised.

A Kids' Summer's Nice Dream

"Croutons" is Bread Loaf's day camp for the under ten crew – but the kids don't spend their days hammering out papers on "Representation As Reality: The Aesthetics of Liminality in *Harold and the Purple Crayon*." Instead, the Mary Johnson Children's Center offers a lively and enriching program at the Ripton Elementary School on Lincoln Road. Those in need of further info can call the Center at 388-2853.

"Out, Damned Spot" Spot

The small white hut between Larch and the Barn houses Bread Loaf's laundry facilities. Washing and drying cost \$1.25 each, and the Front Desk can supply you with quarters. Fair warning: as the summer progresses, more and more washers and dryers will ingest your coins, rattle and hum convincingly, yet effect no discernible change upon your garments in return. Although physical aggression might seem a temptingly cathartic option at that point, please respond instead to such adversity with the withering sarcasm or choice epithets worthy of a School of English student.

Ode on a Freakin' Urn

Coffee is truth, truth coffee. If that's all ye know on earth, all ye need to know is that your sweet, sweet, precious nectar is always available gratis in the Barn. We ask only that you brew a new pot if you deplete the previous one; the process is easy no matter how over- or under-caffinated you may be. Head to the Barn for between-meals snacks as well; the Dining Hall staff sets out pastries there after breakfast, and you can turn to the vending machines at any hour for a Coke, a Red Bull, a Frappuccino, or any other delicious combination of high-fructose corn syrup, xanthan gum, and Red Dye #4.

O, Most Wicked Speed

The "125" on road signs around campus is the route number, not the speed limit, for crying out loud. The local authorities recognize that three hundred out-of-state visitors who don't know about the sudden drop in the speed limit through Ripton make for easy pickings, so don't take the hairpin turns at hair-raising speeds unless you want to help fill their coffers.

If you prefer the unparalleled luxury of being ferried hither and yon in the comfort of a Ford Econoline minivan, you can also ride to Middlebury on the Front Desk's shuttle. It leaves each weekday afternoon at 1:45 from the Inn and returns by 4:30. There's only space for seven aboard, so reserve a spot on the sign-up sheet posted daily at the Front Desk.

Burning Issues

Vermont state law prohibits smoking in *all* public buildings (including dormitories), and Bread Loaf does not permit smoking on porches, given the sensitivity of the smoke detectors just inside and the inconvenience to those living or working in adjacent rooms. If you opt to smoke elsewhere, please extinguish all smoking material in the sand pails placed around campus for that purpose. The campus smoke detectors are easily triggered; if your room alarm goes off, air out the room and fan the smoke or hairspray away from the alarm. Chirping, buzzing, or twittering smoke detectors are pleading for a new battery, which the Front Desk can provide. Chirping, buzzing, or twittering animals are common in Vermont, and under no circumstances should attempts be made to equip *them* with new batteries.

Bread Loaf's electrical system still retains its 19th-century fragility; thus, modern marvels such as coffee makers, microwaves, and hair dryers must not be used in student rooms, as they overburden the circuits and increase the risk of fire. (Happily, the bathrooms are wired to handle hair dryers.) Contraband items have been known to disappear from dorm rooms, later to be quietly absorbed by the local citizenry at Trader Jim's End-of-Summer Yard Sale.

Inn Security

Like Grover's Corners or Winesburg, Ohio, Bread Loaf is the kind of place where you don't need to lock your door behind you. (Fortunately, our stage manager is less intrusive and our population less overrun with grotesques.) Your room can always be locked from the inside, but if that doesn't soothe your soul, you can obtain a room key from the Front Desk. If you have a roommate, you must show up together in order to receive keys. Any resulting lock-outs, however accidental, will incur a \$25 fee.

Mail Hegemony

The hegemonic system that is the Bread Loaf Post Office functions like this: The dominant party (the Front Desk staff) provides the masses (that'd be you) with goods and services (sorting mail, selling stamps, arranging FedEx and UPS shipments, and, they assure the *Crumb*, opening only mail deemed "potentially salacious"). In exchange, the disempowered willingly cede certain privileges to the hegemonic power, but since your only inconvenience is not getting a post office box all to yourself, as hegemonies go this ranks somewhere near the cruel and inhumane reign of King Teddy the Invariably Compliant.

Still, having to share a mailbox means that that unexpected issue of *Granta* is not a gift from the Mail Fairy. It belongs to your box buddy. Put it back.

It's Easy Being Green

The instructions on the recycling containers located throughout campus are just about the only "text" you'll encounter here in which no embedded meanings, ironic significances, or coded dialectics can be plausibly discerned. Simply put glass in the containers marked "glass," paper in those marked "paper," and so forth. Little things help, too. Turn off lights in unoccupied rooms. Use a travel mug or Nalgene bottle instead of disposable cup after disposable cup. And deposit spent batteries at the Front Desk, where they will receive a brief eulogy and then an environmentally sound disposal.

Hall's Well That Tens Well

Nothing builds dorm spirit like brainstorming contributions to the *Crumb*'s weekly Top Ten competition, a tradition that predates Letterman's feeble imitation (topping the 1924 list of "Top Ten Things Not to Say Whilst Perambulating Through the Meadow with Your Beau" was "How's about we end your Age of Innocence?").

Who will rise to challenge last summer's champions, the **OXY-Morons**, who find their ranks severely depleted by graduation and their attention occupied with the impending nuptials of several members? The **Men of Annex** are always a threat to use their superior numbers and nightly porch gatherings to claim the title, and the **Waitstaff** bonds with such quickness and ferocity that by midsummer they're sharing and polishing potential Top Ten submissions telepathically.

If you'd like to join the fray, gather your dorm members, friends, or dinner tablemates together, give yourselves a catchy, preferably alliterative name (**Team Tamarack**, **Guys of Gilmore**, **Ladies of Larch**, etc.), and submit your funniest ideas for the **Top Ten Real Reasons You Were Accepted to Bread Loaf** to Jon Freeman via BreadNet or campus mail by Friday at 10:00 a.m. The best ten (or so) entries will appear in that day's *Crumb*.

Crumb, Live With Me, and Be My Loaf

The *Crumb* is your source for Bread Loaf news, announcements, wildlife sightings, the dinner menu, a notoriously undependable weather forecast, the summerlong trivia and Top Ten competitions, and any number of strained puns and literary allusions. Hot-off-the-presses (warm-from-the-copier, really) editions can be found outside the Dining Hall entrance before lunch each weekday.

The *CyberCrumb*, an electronic version of this publication, is posted each morning in the CyberBarn for folks at the other campuses and alumni suffering from persistent nostalgia.

Send your news, requests for rides to the airport, or any other announcements of note to *Crumb* Bum Jon Freeman's mailbox (actual or cyber-) by 11 a.m. for inclusion in that day's issue. Take care not to get him confused with Professor Jonathan Freedman; the *Crumb* Bum's advice about your "Fictions of Finance" paper will almost assuredly prove suspect, and the professor's interest in your moose sighting will likely fail to generate the campuswide publicity for which you had hoped.

Bread Loaf Hours

Summer 2007

Front Desk (ext. 2700)
M-Sat 8 a.m.-11 p.m.
Sun 9 a.m.-11 p.m.

Bookstore (ext. 2759)
M-F 8:30-12:30

Bread Loaf Office
(ext. 5418)
M-F 8-12:15, 1:30-5

Cornwall Clinic (ext. 2714)
M-F 8:00-2:00

Apple Cellar (ext. 2741)
M-F 8:30-12:30, 1:30-5:45, 7-12
Sat 9:30-12:25, 1:30-5:45, 7-9:30
Sun 9:30-12:25, 1:30-5:45, 7-12

Dining Hall
Weekdays
Breakfast 7:30
Lunch 12:45
Dinner 6:00
Weekends
Breakfast 8-9
Lunch 12:30-1:15
Dinner 6-6:45

Main Library (ext. 2000)
M-Th 7:30 a.m.-midnight
Fri 7:30 a.m.-11 p.m.
Sat. 9 a.m.-11 p.m.
Sun 9 a.m.-midnight

Field House
(ext. 5250)
M-F 6 a.m.-8:45 p.m.
Sat-Sun 10 a.m.-4:45 p.m.

Davison Library (ext. 2739)
Staff on duty 8:30 a.m.-10 p.m.



The Crumb

The Daily Bulletin of the Bread Loaf School of English

Volume 88, Number 2

Wednesday, June 27, 2007

Trivia

Which British novelist's work draws so much from classical literature that only one of his/her novels can be reproduced without using a Greek font?

(a hint's in the headlines...see last article for more info)

Events

Senior Reception
5:00, Earthworm

Ultimate Frisbee
7:00, Field

Auditions for Henry IV & Directing Scenes
7:00, Theatre

Menu

Fried chicken or mushroom risotto cake with tomato-almond chutney; corn & cheddar mashed potatoes; swiss chard; carrot cake.

Weather

Today:
Afternoon storms,
93/70.

Tomorrow:
Morning showers,
79/55.

Friday:
Partly cloudy,
77/54.

Pirandello Production Means Five Characters in Search of Actors

As Jim Maddox mentioned last night, Bread Loaf's theatrical season kicks off this evening with auditions for Pirandello's *Henry IV* and for the two sets of Directing Workshop scenes. *Henry IV* features five good roles open to students, faculty, staff, and other members of the BL community. (The play concerns a man who falls off a horse and believes he is the German medieval emperor Henry IV, although if you believe that you are the German medieval emperor Henry IV, Alan MacVey regrets to inform you that that role is already spoken for.) All of the available roles in *Henry IV* are for men; Alan apologizes that there are no parts in the Pirandello play available for women, but adds that the Directing Workshop scenes feature many good roles for both women and men. The auditions will be held in the Little Theatre tonight starting at 7.

To audition for *Henry IV*, come to the Theatre, where there will be scenes for you to read. Copies of *Henry IV* are also available on the reserve shelves in Davison. To audition for the Directing Workshop scenes, just bring something to read—verse, prose, or dramatic monologue. It doesn't have to be memorized.

Finally, if you'd rather contribute to the productions in unseen ways—on the backstage crew, in the costume shop, or in any other technical capacity—stop by the Theatre office to express your interest.

Director Offers Seniors Worm Welcome

Jim Maddox cordially invites the Senior Class to a reception at 5 this afternoon on the lawn of Earthworm Manor, a short walk down Route 125. Dress is informal; the gathering is just a chance for you to get to know each other and celebrate your senior status.

From the outside, the Manor would seem to be undeserving of the name. Inside, however, a Manor it truly is, as the *Crumb* Bum can attest from the rare occasions he has been summoned within to have the thumb-screws administered by the Director for some slight impertinence. The building's humble façade conceals the fact that it contains 117 rooms, a full parish with its own curate, and—not to be outdone by Thornfield—not one but two madwomen in the attic. One summer I could have sworn I saw *The Scream* hanging on a drawing-room wall.

Seniors should also be aware that they will reconvene on Friday at 5 in the Blue Parlor to begin preparations for (egad) Commencement, including electing a class president, a graduation speaker, and a hoodler. This afternoon's reception is, therefore, not too early to scan your ranks for classmates who appear to be "presidential material"; you may want to ascertain their positions on today's pressing issues (the serial comma, corporal punishment for confusing "its" and "it's," acquiring an official Bread Loaf Giraffe) before deciding where your allegiance lies.

Get Your Freak on Friday

Marcella Pixley, Bread Loaf '00, will return to campus on Friday at 5:00 to read from her forthcoming young adult novel, *Freak*. The novel tells the story of twelve-year-old Miriam, who is poetic, smart, quirky, and considered a freak by the popular girls at her school. She eventually explodes in response to their bullying, revealing an inner strength she did not know she had.

Marcella lives in Westford, Massachusetts, where she teaches eighth-grade language arts. Her poetry has been published in literary journals such as *Prairie Schooner*, and she has been nominated for a Pushcart Prize. Everyone is invited to attend the reading!

Mull on the Flaws

The *Crumb* employs a sizable proofreading and fact-checking department in the eternal-springing hope that the summer's publications will contain neither grammatical missteps nor patent fictions. The *Crumb* then summarily fires those hirelings after one issue for failing to recognize and emend certain glaring inaccuracies. To wit:

- The new student reception will be **tomorrow** at 5.
- Renee Lewin is this year's other Headwaiter.
- As Larch is coed this year, a Top Ten team from their ranks need not be called "Ladies of Larch" unless the residents should voluntarily decide to form two gender-specific teams and vie against each other in the manner of *Survivor: Amazon*.
- The phrase "crack Waitstaff" was *not* meant to imply that the use of street drugs is rampant among its members.
- Ed Brown was mentioned an inadequate number of times (once), and without his preferred title, "His Omnipotenceness."

Duly chastened, the *Crumb* Bum apologizes for these mistakes and vows to listen to a full hour of *Gilbert Gottfried Reads the Les Exciting Parts of Ellen*, or *Whisperings of an Old Pine* as a gesture of abject contrition.

Miss Friday's Film

The first Barn film of the summer will be *Little Miss Sunshine*, starring Greg Kinnear, Alan Arkin, and Abigail Breslin. It's a hilarious but at times wincingly recognizable study of the win-at-all-costs attitude of one American family; also, you'll never be able to listen to Rick James' "Super Freak" the same way again.

Showtime is 9:00, so there's plenty of time to, say, race down to American Flatbread beforehand because Friday is the first night of the summer they're open and since you don't live in Vermont you've been waiting ten months to go there because the food is so good you drool uncontrollably all through the fall and winter and spring at the very thought of a meal there which is to say the least disconcerting to friends and family who aren't aware of the cause of your suddenly overactive salivary glands or the severity of your withdrawal. Not that I'll be there or anything.

To Bee, or Not to Bee?

That is the question. But since Wednesday evening has for years been one of the traditional gathering times for Ultimate Frisbee enthusiasts, the *Crumb* suggests that anyone interested in chucking the disc around for an hour or so meet in the large field behind Birch and Maple at 7:00. (New students: if the Bread Loaf alums in your department wax nostalgic about "having a fling" during their summers here, they *weren't* talking about playing Ultimate. Hey, I'm just trying to help here.)

Artists Thoroughly Uncoordinated

The Sunday evening Blue Parlor readings, in which students and community members share their creative work with the community, is a Bread Loaf tradition. The Coffeehouse, a midsummer Friday night cornucopia of talents ranging from the sublime to the ridiculous, is another. Neither tradition will take shape on its own, however, so if you're willing to coordinate signups and oversee minor logistical arrangements for either (or, if you crave deification, both), talk to one of the Director's Assistants.

Car Tolerance Limited to Dodge Spirits

When Bread Loaf first relaxed Joseph Battell's blanket prohibition on motor vehicles at Bread Loaf, eerie signs emerged that his restless spirit was haunting these environs. Fearful of spectral recrimination, a hasty compromise was reached: while cars are now permitted on campus, they must be safely stowed in the lot in front of the Barn, not parked alongside Route 125. If yours still languishes alongside the main road, move it forthwith lest Battell's ghost vent its wrath upon you or – worse still – upon your computer's hard drive.

And at Midnight, You All Turn into Pumpkins

Bread Loaf asks that you observe an 11:00 curfew for porch gatherings. The campus rang with laughter and revelry late into the night yesterday, but as workloads descend upon Bread Loafers in the same manner – not always predictably, but suddenly and inevitably – in which anvils descend upon Wile E. Coyote, our policy towards such get-togethers must shift from one of Falstaffian indulgence to one of Malvolious disapproval. We ask that after 11:00, porch parties either disperse or move to the Barn.

They Also Serve Who Only Stand and Wait

You may find yourself gazing longingly at your courteous and efficient server tonight, and not because you're imagining what he or she looks like underneath that apron. You may hope someday to bring happiness to the masses by plying them with coffee. Or you may just really, really want an apron of your very own. It's not that you've had too much tomato-almond chutney – it's Waitstaff envy. If you've been experiencing any of the previously listed symptoms, talk to Steve Suomi, because there are still a couple of spots open on this year's Waitstaff. It's a paying gig, too, which is kind of nice.

It's All Downhill from Here

...to Middlebury, which means that you *could* coast down to town on a skateboard, or a tricycle, or a pair of roller skates. Getting back up would be another story, though – so why not just hitch a ride down and back on the Bread Loaf shuttle? Sign up for a seat at the Front Desk; the van leaves at 1:45, returns by 4:30, and unlike the VW bus in *Little Miss Sunshine*, does not need to be jump-started by pushing it forward, sprinting around to the open door, then hurling yourself inside the rapidly accelerating vehicle.

Signing Up Takes Balls

Check the Dining Hall bulletin board this week for signup sheets for Wimbleloaf, our summerlong tennis tournament, and the Bread Loaf Golf Scramble, a friendly, team-based 18-hole competition tentatively scheduled for Sunday, July 8. Both events are open to players of all levels.

The Paper Chase

Bread Loaf has many Arcadian qualities, but a suspension of the laws of the marketplace is not one of them. If you're among the gentle souls who blithely claim their copies of *The New York Times* at the Front Desk despite not having paid the subscription charge, cough up the dough before Ed Brown takes matters into his own hands and shames you by showing pictures of you at the Slide Show that range from the unflattering to the scandalous (just how *did* you two manage to fit into the Adirondack chair? And wouldn't you get splinters?).

On a related note, it's also time to pay for your *Crumb* subscription. Slip \$225 in cash to Jon Freeman any time Jim Maddox isn't looking.

Parasite Lots

Caretaker Leo Hotte cautions Bread Loafers that Vermont is currently dealing with a severe infestation of both deer and wood ticks – unpleasant at best, hazardous to your health at worst. If your inner Thoreau prompts you to take a walk in the woods, check yourself regularly to make sure your exposed flesh hasn't picked up any uninvited passengers. Of course, you should also keep an eye peeled for moose and bear, although the likelihood of either creature's fastening itself to you without your knowledge seems fairly remote.

Unbearable Beings of Lightness

As part of its commitment to a balanced portrayal of the insect kingdom, the *Crumb* must point out that the resident fireflies have been putting on an unbelievable show these past few nights in the meadow across from the Inn. Thousands upon thousands upon thousands of flickering green lights make the entire meadow sparkle. Fittingly for Vermont, the creatures are models of environmental efficiency, converting 90% of their energy into light compared to only 10% for the average incandescent bulb.

I don't mean for reality to intrude upon your aesthetic sensibility, but the fact is that the insects' bioluminescence assists them in locating and attracting potential mates – so the scene you may first view with a Wordsworthian eye for sublimity is actually the largest singles bar in Vermont in full swing.

Corrupt Ten Infiltrates Admissions Process

The Directors have begun their annual rumblings about being forces to be reckoned with in the Top Ten competition, but their best-laid plans always seem to gang agley before they submit idea one to the *Crumb*. It therefore falls to the student body to pick up the slack; send your best ideas for the **Top Ten Real Reasons You Were Accepted to Bread Loaf** to Jon Freeman by 10 a.m. on Friday. The *Crumb* vows that whatever pull you used to get in here will get you nowhere with the obdurate panel that decides which entries are worthy of inclusion in the final list, which will appear in Friday's issue.

Put Literature into Historical Contest

On the front page of each day's *Crumb*, you'll find a trivia question relating to literature or to Bread Loaf – and somewhere in that day's headlines lurks a clue to the correct answer. If you think you know today's author in question, tell Jon Freeman or send him an e-mail; if you're right, he'll give you what every scholar desires. No, not a three-hole punch. I'm talking about getting *published* – and while having your name appear in the next day's *Crumb* isn't exactly a two-book deal with Picador, it's a start. And you're *not* getting that three-hole punch!

The Crumb

The Daily Bulletin of the Bread Loaf School of English

Volume 88, Number 3

Thursday, June 28, 2007

Trivia

Which author made New Year's resolutions for 1931 that included "As for clothes, I think to buy good ones"?

Events

New Student Reception
5:00, Barn

Gilmore
9:00

Menu

Crispy loin pork chop or mushroom ravioli; spinach-ricotta strudel; braised red cabbage; dessert's a surprise.

Weather

Today:
Isolated storms,
79/53.

Tomorrow:
Mostly sunny,
76/52.

Weekend:
Cooling down;
storms on
Saturday
possible. Highs
around 70.

You're not being very social, are you? Otherwise you wouldn't have your head down reading the fine print here. Why not use one of the Lunch Table Conversation Starters on the back of this page to strike up a nice chat at your table?

Make It, New!

Students new to Bread Loaf, or just new to the Vermont campus, are invited to a casual reception today at 5:00 in the Barn. You'll get to snack on real Vermont cheddar – this is, after all your welcome to the state – and chat with Jim and Emily and other folks worth knowing.

The reception you'll get today will be much more polite and pleasant than the reception the *Crumb* Bum will get from uptight faculty who will no doubt gripe to the *Crumb* Bum that adding a comma to Pound's modernist battle cry in order to make today's headline make sense is tantamount to treason.

See Happy Gilmore Tonight

The Gentlemen of Gilmore (formerly "Guys of Gilmore"), many of whom joyously return to Vermont this summer after sojourns abroad, cordially invite you to partake in one of Bread Loaf's most cherished traditions, the Thursday evening bonfire and faculty reading.

The festivities commence at 9, with the traditional recitation from *Ellen* and celebrity professor's reading beginning around 10. As is the custom, there will be delightful liquid stimulants (formerly "swill") made available, although the Gentlemen request that you kindly offer a small remuneration (formerly "Dude, pay up") in exchange for their having provided for you thusly. Their humble abode (formerly "hovel") sits in a small clearing about half a mile up the dirt road behind the Inn; bring a flashlight if you plan to walk up.

2007 marks a significant change in the *Crumb*'s depiction of Gilmore residents. Having tended to ascribe to them in past years vaguely Cro-Magnon qualities, the *Crumb* amended its approach when it was revealed that 1) they do build fires, which Cro-Magnon man did not, and 2) in addition to their weekly Thursday gatherings, the Gilmore inhabitants had also begun convening a secret Tuesday night support group to discuss responses to the latest prejudicial characterizations and have a good cry.

Freakin' Awesome!

"I greet you at the beginning of a great career," Emerson famously wrote to Whitman. So Bread Loaf welcomes back Marcella Pixley '00, who arrives tomorrow to give her first public reading from her first novel, *Freak*, forthcoming in September from Farrar, Straus and Giroux. *Freak* tells the story of twelve-year-old Miriam, who is "poetic, smart, quirky, and considered a freak by the popular girls at her school." As that pretty much sums up the average Bread Loaf student's adolescence, Marcella shouldn't have a problem getting an empathetic and enthusiastic audience for her reading. It'll be in Barn 1 at 5, and everyone is invited.

This is the Meal Equally Set

Friday's dinner will be an all-school picnic – and when we say "all-school," we mean it. Off-campus students are welcome, as are families. Rest assured that Chef Jim will bring forth a buffet of a bounteousness that even the combined assaults of Falstaff, Toby Belch, and Lord Capulet's entire guest list couldn't deplete.

Barren: The Big Blue, 'House

The Director's Assistants know that somewhere out there is a kind soul willing to coordinate the Sunday night Blue Parlor readings, the forum for Bread Loaf students to read their own creative work in front of an appreciative audience. Without someone to see to signups and what-not, Joseph Battell's portrait in the Parlor won't gaze upon anything more exciting this summer than the late-night canoodlings rumored to occur there.

The Coffeehouse, scheduled for July 13, is also in need of an organizer. Unlike the event itself, which might include anything from juggling to unicycling to playing Gnarl Barkley's "Crazy" on the sousaphone, coordinating the Coffeehouse requires only ordinary organizational skills. See Jen, Christie, or Eric if you're interested.

Commencing Commencement

Now that they know – or at least vaguely recognize – each other after yesterday's reception, the Senior Class will reconvene in the Blue Parlor tomorrow at 5 to begin the process of electing a president, a Commencement speaker, and a hooder. The Director's Assistants will be measuring heads to ensure accurate cap sizes; seniors are cautioned not to infer that classmates with the largest heads are the most intelligent and therefore the most suitable to serve as Class President, as the "science" of phrenology was discredited long ago.

What Do Bahres Do in the Woods?

Somewhat surprisingly, they lead square dances. At least that's what Tom Bahre, the caller for Francis Cram's down-home band, will do this Saturday night from 8 to 12 at the Square Dance, an opening-weekend staple since free verse was a novel concept. Tom will gladly walk you through the basic steps, but since most Bread Loaf students can parse Joyce with one hand while penning trenchant insights into *À la recherche du temps perdu* with the other, it shouldn't take you too long to distinguish the Allemande Left from the Promenade Right. Bring an ID if you'd like to be swigging when you're not swinging.

Before 8, Breakfast. After 8, "Cheerio"s

The Dining Hall bell summons you to breakfast at 7:30 sharp each morning, but in their infinite generosity, Headwaiters Steve and Renee say that it's OK to stumble in a little later than that if you need some extra shut-eye. Check that "infinite generosity" thing, actually: Steve cautions that at 8:00, they're bolting the door. By that time, the waiters are busy clearing food away and would view your arrival and the attendant necessity of fetching more food, which itself must be cleared away, with the weary pattern recognition of Sisyphus. Remember that after 8:00 you can still find muffins, bagels, and coffee in the Barn.

Professor Makes Concert-ed Effort

Heather James has an extra ticket to this Sunday's Richard Thompson concert at The Egg in Albany, and she's happy to sell it to you at face value (\$28, Heather thinks) if you get in touch with her.

Liked *Virgin*? You'll Wolf Down *Little Miss*

Steve Carell's next cinematic venture after *The 40-Year-Old Virgin* was *Little Miss Sunshine*, showing tomorrow at 9 in the Barn. He plays Frank Hoover, a jilted, suicidal Proust scholar who piles into a VW bus with an unsuccessful self-help guru (Greg Kinnear), a sexually active grandfather (Alan Arkin) eager to pass on his expertise on that subject to his 15-year-old grandson, and the rest of their family to enter seven-year-old Olive in the *Little Miss Sunshine* pageant. So basically, the writers took *The Grapes of Wrath* and tweaked it.

Drew Lecture on Literature, Yet Involves Graff

Gerald Graff, soon to become President of the Modern Language Association, will deliver the annual Elizabeth Drew Memorial Lecture, "The Unbearable Pointlessness of the Literature Essay Assignment," on Monday evening in the Theatre. The Drew Lecture, which has in past years been given by luminaries such as Seamus Heaney, Paul Muldoon, and Oskar Eustis, is one of the summer's not-to-be-missed events.

English Students Generate Copious Notes

"Song of Myself" is a poem. *Song of Solomon* is a novel. OK, fine, Whitman and Morrison can have their musical metaphors, but if it's *real* songs that you're craving, join the Bread Loaf Madrigalists in the Barn on Monday at 5 for their first rehearsal of the summer. Don't trust the name any further than you'd trust James Frey; this year's repertoire ranges from Gershwin and Sinatra to McCartney and Lennon, with nary a "fa-la-la" in sight. No singing experience or music-reading ability is necessary, although a *Bartleby*-esque reluctance to vocalize would be a hindrance.

Where the Wild Things Aren't

Ordinarily by this point in the session, the *Crumb*'s mailbox is overflowing with fervid reports of the appearance of a moose by the Frost Trail or a bear trundling across Steam Mill Road. Surely we can't have gotten this far into the summer without anyone having seen anything more exotic than a chipmunk, or a fox, or one of the scruffier inhabitants of Gilmore? (I know, I promised to be nice. But old habits die hard.) If you have a close encounter to report, send word of it to Jon Freeman, who promises to broadcast faithfully – or embellish as you see fit – your tale.

Many Knew Trivia by George

George Eliot was the subject of yesterday's trivia question ("Which British novelist's work draws so much from classical literature that only one of his/her novels can be reproduced without using a Greek font?"). Some people knew the answer right away, while others spotted a clue in the headline "Mull on the Flaws."

The *Crumb* was deluged with correct answers: Carrie Jewell, Liz Bedell, the brain trust of Betty Bailey and Lucy Maddox*, Kurt Broderson, Marty McMahon, Katie Baroski, and "Christeric," which is a conflation of the names of Director's Assistants Christie Beveridge and Eric Eye but which sounds more intimidating, like a monster from *Beowulf* or an 80's metal band.

If you'd like the acclaim that showers down on those in the know, send Jon Freeman your guess for today's mystery author by 11 a.m. tomorrow. You can scour the headlines for a clue; if you're truly desperate, modernism expert Victor Luftig led me to understand that slipping a Benjamin between the pages of his copy of Heaney's *Collected Poems* might loosen his tongue.

*Insert your own joke about the fact that it took *two* faculty members working together to come up with this answer.

Vermont Campus Not Completely Hosed

Vermont hasn't gotten as much rain as residents would have liked this spring; as a result, local reservoirs have dropped below their ideal levels. Bread Loaf asks everyone, therefore, to be conscientious and frugal in their water usage. Stay adequately hydrated by all means, and do continue to bathe on occasion, but please be mindful of the situation and keep showers brief and faucets off while you brush your teeth. It's unclear at this point whether further strictures will be required, but rest assured that the *Crumb* will keep you posted.

Lunch Table Conversation Starter #1

No sooner does the *Crumb* lament the paucity of interesting animal-spottings does Director's Assistant Christie Beveridge send word that she returned to her downtown apartment last night to find it filled with smoke caused by a nearby Dumpster fire that was, in turn, caused by (and Christie swears this is what the firefighter told her) "a squirrel that had caught fire and fallen into the Dumpster."

The *Crumb* declares **Official Lunch Table Conversation Starter #1** to be "How exactly does a squirrel catch fire?" This newsworthy oddment arrives propitiously, as Dining Hall conversations can only address where one comes from and in what classes one is enrolled for so long.

Lunch Table Conversation Starter #2

Upon being released from prison this week, Paris Hilton did what most former inmates do – claim their belongings, board a Trailways bus to the nearest town, pick up some sort of transitional menial work, struggle to adjust, contemplate recidivism or even suicide...no, wait, that's *The Shawshank Redemption*. What I meant to say was that Paris Hilton did what most former *celebrity* inmates do – go on Larry King Live. There, she claimed that the outlook that helped her endure her agonizing 23-day ordeal was, and I quote, "Don't serve the time; let the time serve you." **Official Lunch Table Conversation Starter #2** can only be "What does that *mean*?"

Stunning Admission

It's common knowledge that if you make regular spelling mistakes, identify *People* magazine as your favorite literary work, or send letters of recommendation from your kindergarten teacher and your imaginary friend, you're likely to be rejected from Bread Loaf's applicant pool. Getting in, however, sometimes involves more than just raw talent. If you're one of the ones who had to pull some strings, you should be able to come up with some of the **Top Ten Real Reasons You Got Accepted to Bread Loaf** and submit them to Jon Freeman by tomorrow morning. The best entries will appear in tomorrow's *Crumb*.

The Crumb

The Daily Bulletin of the Bread Loaf School of English

Volume 88, Number 4

Friday, June 29, 2007

Trivia

Which author felt that the title of his masterpiece was only "fair," and more "bad than good"?

Events

Friday

Senior Meeting
5:00, Blue Parlor

Marcella Pixley
Reads from *Freak*
5:00, Barn 1

All-School Picnic
6:00, West Lawn

*Little Miss
Sunshine*
9:00, Barn

Saturday:
Square Dance
9-12, Barn

Sunday:
Ultimate
2:00

Picnic Menu

Tomato-basil orzo
salad, BBQ
chicken, garden
burgers, sausage
& peppers,
watermelon, and
cookies.

Weather

Today:
Mostly sunny,
75/52.

Weekend:
Sun, clouds, cool.
Highs around 70.

"I've never had very many friends."

No, it's not Confessions of the *Crumb* Bum Day. That sentence begins the riveting and (for some) familiar story of Miriam Fisher. She's the protagonist of Marcella Pixley's forthcoming young adult novel *Freak*, from which you can hear Marcella (BL '00) read today at 5 in Barn 1. Miriam likes poetry and reads the Oxford English Dictionary for fun, so you can imagine what the "watermelon girls," as Miriam terms the popular crowd in junior high, think of her. To make matters worse, Miriam's older sister Deborah, formerly a fellow "alien," has been swallowed up by the "in" crowd. Miriam's tormentors push her to the breaking point, but at the end of the story she...well, you'll just have to go to the reading and ask Marcella how it all ends. Everyone is invited.

For Seniors, the Beginning of the End

Seniors should report to the Blue Parlor this afternoon at 5; attending is important for several reasons. First, the ability to find the Blue Parlor is a comforting indication that you can probably be counted on to show up for even more important class gatherings, such as Commencement. Second, the process of electing a graduation speaker, a hoodier, and a class president reflects an ongoing commitment to democratic principles, vital when you realize that Emily would prefer to appoint as president whichever senior she finds the most fawning. Third, while the elections are going on you'll get your head measured, which will provide you with the proper-sized cap for graduation and Jim, who believes that Bread Loaf should literally "expand your mind," with what he perceives to be hard data with which to assess your progress.

Food is Tenderest Tonight

The entire BL community – on- and off-campus students, as well as their families – is invited to tonight's All-School Picnic at 6 on the West Lawn. Thanks to Chef Jim, the fare there is so mouthwateringly good that *Crumb* readers unable to endure the wait between lunch and dinner have been known to tear off the menu just to the left of this article and wolf it down. (To whoever's in charge of the children's table at lunch: I implore you to be on the lookout for kids who read that previous sentence and get ideas.)

Coordinating Coffeehouse No Tall Order

No one has yet stepped forward to volunteer to coordinate the Bread Loaf Coffeehouse, and I think I know why. Managing the Coffeehouse just means organizing a talent show; don't let the name fool you into thinking that the job requires barista skills, and involves being descended upon by angry, undercaffeinated Loafers demanding tall nonfat triple-shot percollettos, no-foam soy vanilla espressocinnos, or other drinks with complex names involving made-up words. (For sheer frequency of fabricated terminology, only the latest issue of *PMLA* gives the Starbucks menu a run for its money.) If you'd be willing to help, talk to one of the Director's Assistants.

The Wait's on Your Shoulders

If you're reading this at lunch after glibly ordering your wait-servant to fetch you various and sundry alimments, you should know that the honeymoon's over – at least for the weekend, when we switch to walk-through meals to allow the Waitstaff time to recuperate and reacquaint themselves with the concept of "having a life." On the plus side, the hours become more flexible – 8-9 for breakfast, 12:30-1:15 for lunch, and 6-6:45 for dinner – so there's no need to feel bad about slinking in later than the customary start time.

Little Miss Can't Be Wrong

There's a little life lesson lurking in tonight's film, *Little Miss Sunshine*. (Judging from that last sentence, the "little life lesson" the *Crumb* Bum needs to learn is: Easy on the alliteration, big guy.) Amid all the hilarity lies a tender message about "The Perils of Perfection: Social Constructs of Beauty and the Individual's Struggle for Self-Expression." (Sorry. Just for a moment there, I thought I was a grad student again. Still, if that sounds like a viable title for your next paper, I'll be glad to negotiate a reasonable fee for the right to use it.) Showtime is 9:00.

Drew Lecturer to Speak on Pointless Topic

Mark your calendars for Monday night's Drew Lecture, when Gerald Graff will address the community on "The Unbearable Pointlessness of the Literature Essay Assignment." Professor Graff and his wife Cathy Birkenstein-Graff have recently published "*They Say/I Say*": *The Moves That Matter in Academic Writing*, and together they direct the Writing in the Disciplines Program in the University of Illinois at Chicago's College of Arts and Sciences. Graff's teaching and writing have been dedicated to closing the gap between academic intellectual culture and that of students and other citizens, and Monday's Drew Lecture promises to be an important and thought-provoking event. Everyone is invited.

He'll Get You All Squared Away

The abrupt switch from three days of intellectual exertions to the physical demands of executing a successful Texas Star can make the first hour or so of the Square Dance (Saturday, 9-12, Barn) a comedy of errors. Caller Tom Bahre, however, has seen enough Bread Loaf Square Dances to know when someone's mind is on Virginia Woolf instead of the Virginia Reel. He'll teach you the steps you need – and by the end of the evening, Barnacle Bill the Sailor and the Spanish Caballero will be old friends, you'll gaze scornfully upon the imperfect Ladies' Chain in the square next to yours, and you'll never, ever dig for the oyster when you're supposed to dive for the clam. Arrive early – the sooner you start, the better you'll get – and bring your ID with you to visit the Barn Bar.

Water Shortage Continues

We still have enough to brew coffee. Remain calm. I repeat: *there will still be coffee*. I said REMAIN CALM!! Put down the pitchfork. THE END IS NOT AT HAND!!!! Just take quick showers and don't leave taps running. OK?

Crumb Wiolds Ultimate Power

Were there people playing Ultimate in the field on Wednesday at 7? The *Crumb* Bum doesn't know. He wasn't there. He was busy haggling over the advance for his *Collected Crumbs* with his publisher, feeling it wise to hold out for a twelve-pack of Otter Creek. Anyway, if there was a Frisbee game, then that means that word begot act. The *Crumb* actually spoke it into being. So let's say that there'll be another game of Ultimate at 2 on Sunday. And if things happen because the *Crumb* says they will, let's also say that I'm due for a big raise, that the spelunking expedition will leave at 3 a.m. Saturday from Barn 5, and that the traditional faculty performance of "Cha Cha Slide" will take place at dinner on Monday.

If there wasn't anyone playing Ultimate on Wednesday, then either no one reads the *Crumb*, or no one cares about what it says. In that case, now would be a good time to get it off my chest that I like to spend my evenings down by John's Pond pretending I'm Caliban, making dams for fish and scraping trenchers while clad only in mud and ferns. There; that felt good, and my secret's still safe.

Do Loafers Dare Club? Or Cause Racket?

We'll see, now that signups have been posted outside the Dining Hall for Wimbleloaf (our tennis tournament) and the Scramble (our golf tournament). In the Scramble, your bad shots generally won't count, but in Wimbleloaf, errant passes that carom off the back fence, the Library, or innocent pedestrians move your opponent closer to victory. Both competitions are still fun and friendly affairs, though, and players of all levels are encouraged to sign up for either or both.

Finally, an Engle-ish Class in Barn

Please welcome Tim Dorsey (BL '97) and Jeremy Engle to Bread Loaf when they arrive this Saturday. Tim is Project Director of the new Youth Media Learning Network (YMLN), in partnership with Educational Video Center (EVC) in New York, a national organization intended to strengthen the practice and expand the reach of youth media. Tim is formerly the Managing Director at EVC. Tim and Jeremy, co-directors of EVC's Documentary Workshop, will lead a week-long documentary workshop for students in "New Media and the Teaching of Writing" and will talk about the work of YMLN in Barn 1 next Thursday from 5-6 pm. All are welcome.

Tim recalls with pleasure that he was Prom Queen of the Bread Loaf class of '97.

Importance of Being Honest with Wildlife News

Yesterday's lament regarding the shortage of wildlife sightings predictably elicited a slew of such reports – moose by the Schoolhouse (I'll post a good picture with the *CyberCrumb*), bear by the Frost Trail, and something scurrying across 125 that was unidentifiable but large and dense enough to make one jogger turn right around. Keep the news coming, says the *Crumb* Bum, but do not become so desperate to see your tale appear in print that you "punch up" your story by claiming to have seen something truly unusual for these parts, like a koala, a plesiosaur, a Danielle Steele novel, or a decaf drinker.

Cherry Bombs

Now *this* is the kind of plot-driven, suspenseful nature writing the *Crumb* will publish any day. Dana Kirk writes: "We, the Ladies of Cherry, have been under attack by dive-bombing birds, who are nested under the eave of our precious porch. They have not confined their attacks to the immediate vicinity of their nest filled with three tufted babies. Nay, their sorties cover an ever-expanding circle around the nest. The sidewalk running in front of the house is not safe. In fact, one victim innocently was walking nearby and ducked, as I have repeatedly, in the nick of time." Be vigilant, both for aerial attacks in the vicinity of Cherry and for similar attempted intimidation by chipmunks and moths, as an agglomeration of such aggressive actions may be a sign of a broader attempt on the part of the local animalia to drive humans away and reclaim Bread Loaf as their rightful territory.

Wrong Guesser Asked If Scot Fits

Since yesterday's mystery passage was written in 1931, it was odd that someone thought the answer was Robert Burns. Bryan Bradbury and "ChristEric" knew that it was actually Virginia Woolf whose New Year's resolution was to buy good clothes. Or possibly they spotted her hiding in plain sight within the headline "Liked *Virgin*? You'll Wolf Down *Little Miss*." Today's clues are concealed a little more cunningly among some real red herrings, but if you find one (or just know the author in question), tell Jon Freeman by Monday morning to have your name and accomplishment extolled in that day's issue with a reverence normally associated with the *Iliad*'s lists of battle dead.

Bread Loaf's Lasting Legacy

The *Crumb* received lots of good submissions for the first Top Ten list...and so much more! A ten-dollar bill, a nice Cabernet, even a signed first edition of the *Odyssey* (suspect, since "Homer" inscribed the volume "Freeman! – Great job with the *Crumb* – Wish I could read it!"). If you find some of the entries below less than amusing, those little "tokens of appreciation" might have had something to do with their having been included in the

Top Ten (Plus a Few) Real Reasons You Got In

24. You're still willing to laugh at Joseph Battell jokes. (WS)
23. You're part of an underrepresented group: balding male English teachers from small Indiana schools who shave their legs in cycling season. (MY)
22. You think "Vagrant" is an occupation. (AS)
21. You threatened Ed Brown with revealing how he *really* paid for college. (EMS)
20. You're the sole heir of Johnson and Johnson's "Deep Woods Off @" fortune. (DA)
19. Y-chromosome quota. (BOBE)
18. Shared a tepee with Emily Bartels at Woodstock. (WW)
17. Threatened to reveal which esteemed Bread Loaf professor worked as a staff writer on the 70's sitcom *Laverne & Shirley*. (OXA)
16. You are the 2004 United States Syntax Champion: Semi-Colon Division. (AS)
15. You won *Square Dancing with the Stars*. (DA)
14. 15 acoustic guitarists weren't enough. (BOBE)
13. Your love letter to Jim was mistaken for an application essay. (BOBE)
12. Your application included an 8x10 glossy headshot. (DA)
11. Promised to name your firstborn Ford Maddox Maddox. (WW)
10. You took down "Mad Dog" Maddox in Texas Hold 'Em poker tournament. (DA)
9. Your uncle is in the waste disposal industry in Jersey. (WS)
8. You submitted *The Snows of Kilimanjaro* as your application essay under the title *Safari Joe & the Terrible, Horrible, No Good, Very Bad Day*. Nobody noticed. (AS)
7. You were the only work study applicant willing to attempt the cleaning of Gilmore at summer's end. (OXA)
6. Left on Sandy LeGault's doorstep as a baby, clutching only a copy of the complete works of William Shakespeare. (OXA)
5. Three words: Maddox. Princeton. Photographs. (DA)
4. You have "Reading is FUNdamental" tattooed on your butt. (AS)
3. Your mother is a baker and your father is a pine tree. (AS)
2. Just showed up and no one noticed. (EMS)
1. I'm not telling, but Lathrop's breaking ground on her new lakefront chalet next week. (WW)

Current Standings: Director's Assistants (DA) 5, Apple Seedlings (AS) 5, WarrenWights (WW) 3, Boys of Barn East (BOBE) 3, Oxford Assistants (OXA) 3, Exiles on Main Street (EMS) 2, Waitstaff (WS) 2, Michael Yeakey (MY) 1.

Crumbword Puzzle #1

The first person to submit a correctly solved puzzle to the Front Desk wins a prize!

"Loaf Songs"

ACROSS

- 1 She loved Narcissus
- 5 What Otter Creek does
- 10 Ithakan suitors' test
- 13 Obsolete personal pronoun
- 14 Difficult student, or his/her effect
- 17 New England state sch.
- 18 1964 song about failed bid to purchase campus?
- 20 Disencumber
- 21 Fix a poem?
- 22 Shed
- 23 Miss-named?
- 24 Stepped (on)
- 25 *Frankenstein* locale
- 26 English, in billiards
- 28 He wrote "T.W.L."
- 30 Small boat
- 31 Tolkien creature
- 32 Opportune
- 35 Fitzgeraldian adjective
- 37 Kind of jury
- 39 In the list of "Dr. Seuss Books You'll Never See," what Horton hires
- 40 August Wilson play *Radio* -

- 41 Brazilian soccer star
- 44 1977 song questioning the summer's profundity?
- 48 Organization that's James Bond's nemesis
- 49 First name in fairy tales
- 50 Roadie's responsibility
- 51 Some older televisions
- 52 "Old" source of Hawthorne's mosses
- 53 Region of Morocco
- 54 It can have feathers or scales
- 55 Torture device
- 56 Last word of first line of *The Merchant of Venice*
- 58 Places Air Force One lands: Abbr.
- 60 "Gross!"
- 61 Lip-_____
- 64 Rapper _____ Kim
- 65 Every President takes one
- 67 Like Oz, compared to Kansas
- 70 "Am _____ blame?"
- 71 1985 song about Route 125?

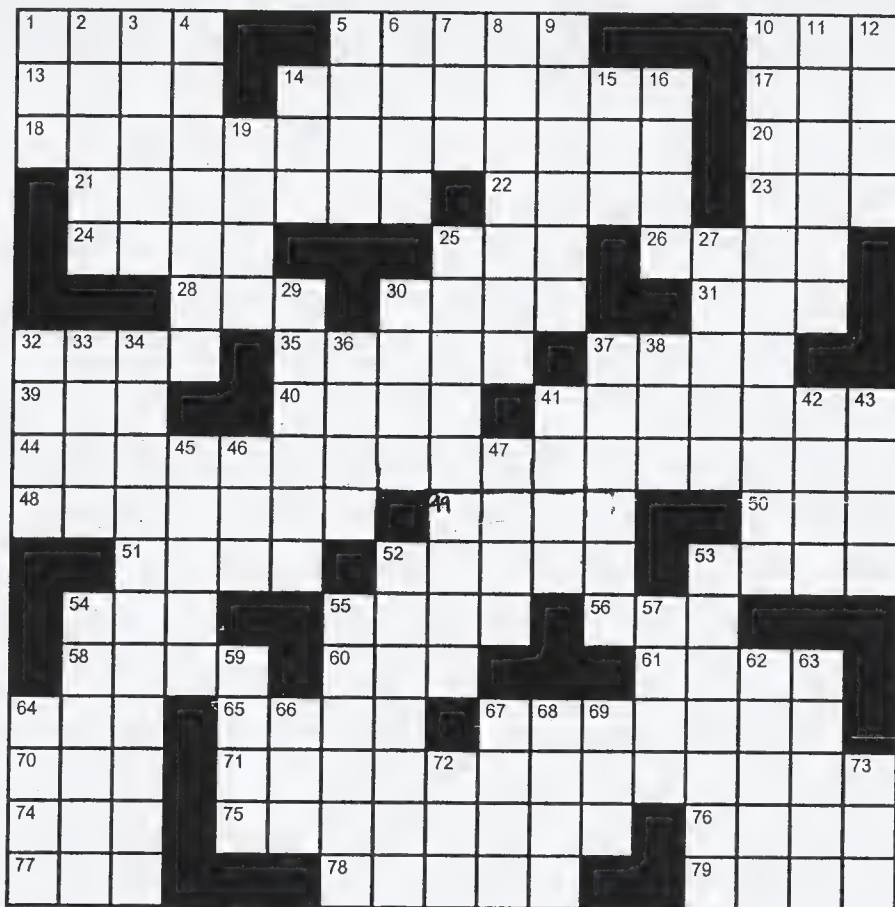
- 74 Setting of first scene in *The Tempest*
- 75 What many Springer guests did
- 76 It follows woe
- 77 Kennel sound
- 78 Small dog, source of adjective meaning "aggressive"
- 79 But, shortened

DOWN

- 1 "Yadda, yadda, yadda"
- 2 Mariner's aid
- 3 One who sharpens
- 4 What the majority does to rule
- 5 30 *Rock*'s Tina and family
- 6 Like some excuses
- 7 Words from Wordsworth
- 8 Retail behemoth
- 9 Dog Doo
- 10 1972 song about Vermont heat wave?
- 11 Familiarize
- 12 *Sargasso Sea* description

- 14 Ben's follower, in film
- 15 Henry V, to Falstaff
- 16 Small amphibians
- 19 Gershwin lead
- 25 1989 song about the Tea Cabin?
- 27 Kafka's kind of colony
- 29 He wrote a *Heartbreaking Work*
- 30 Where to find a hero
- 32 Cheer syllables
- 33 Spot for late-night breakfast
- 34 With "the," 1985 song about this place's allure?
- 36 You can skip this
- 37 Hogwarts has four
- 38 Non-MPAA approved: Abbr.
- 41 Reagan and Burgundy
- 42 What to do with torpedoes?
- 43 Booker Prize-winning *Life*
- 45 Truly awful 1983 film starring Mr. T. as a Washington taxi driver
- 46 In-flight info, for short

- 47 Reb's adversary
- 52 Hacker?
- 53 Paradisiacal
- 54 One who asks leading questions
- 55 Passage preceder
- 57 Starting from
- 59 It follows Romeo's "But"
- 62 Choker
- 63 Writer's affliction
- 64 Half of a famous painting
- 66 Arrow Enterprises' stock symbol
- 67 Popular pet food brand
- 68 "No," to Nabokov
- 69 New England catch
- 72 Hot Nintendo product
- 73 "Whose blood is _____ from fathers of war-proof" (*Henry V*)



The Crumb

The Daily Bulletin of the Bread Loaf School of English

Volume 88, Number 5

Monday, July 2, 2007

Trivia

Which author (creator of one of today's respondents) gave his clothes to a servant before sitting down to write, with instructions not to return them until the end of the day?

Events

Madrigalists
5:00, Barn

Power Yoga
5:00, Barn 1

Gerald Graff Delivers Drew Lecture
7:00, Theatre

Reception
Afterwards, Barn

Menu

Grilled chicken panzanella with red vinaigrette or barley risotto cakes with apricot glaze and veggies; Black Forest cake for dessert.

Weather

Today:
Cold with possible storms, 69/49.

Tomorrow:
Mostly sunny, 77/57.

Wednesday:
Thundershowers, 73/61.

Drew Lecture Tonight: You'll Go Because of the Graff

Gerald Graff, co-director of the Writing in the Disciplines program at the University of Illinois at Chicago, will deliver this year's Elizabeth Drew Memorial Lecture, "The Unbearable Pointlessness of the Literature Essay Assignment," tonight at 7 in the Little Theatre. Professor Graff is the author of numerous books, including *Professing Literature: An Institutional History* and *Beyond the Culture Wars: How Teaching the Conflicts Can Revitalize American Education*. His most recent book, co-authored with his wife, Cathy Birkenstein-Graff, is *"They Say/I Say": The Moves That Matter in Academic Writing*. Professor Graff has taught at the University of New Mexico, Northwestern University, and the University of Chicago in addition to UIC; in December 2005, Graff was elected Second Vice-President of the Modern Language Association of America, thereby becoming President of the MLA in 2008.

Professor Graff is the latest in a long line of renowned scholars and artists who have delivered the Drew Lecture; past lecturers have included Arnold Rampersad, Paul Muldoon, Seamus Heaney, and Oskar Eustis. Tonight's address promises to be a thought-provoking examination of the ways we define scholarship and intelligence in the classroom; everyone is invited to it and to a post-address reception in the Barn.

Crumby Advice

Today's *Crumb* is in the capable hands (and, in one case, fins) of our corps of advice-giving literary figures well-equipped them to handle any crisis from marital infidelity (Othello's area of expertise) to knitting patterns (Madame Defarge). Without further ado, let's get to our readers' questions.

Dear Crumb: I like to sing. Should I go to the Madrigalists' first rehearsal at 5:00 today?

Orsino responds: Of course! They always have a lot of fun singing Gershwin and Sinatra tunes, and you know what they say about music – food of love, babe, food of love. You never know who might hear your gorgeous voice and fall big-time for you. Like this one time when I was courting Olivia, I had my musicians play this sweet tune, and – well, *she* didn't go for it, Ice Queen that she is, but you should've seen the way this *page* of mine, Cesario, looked at me. I have to admit, he was pretty good-looking too, which was confusing at first, because that kind of desire didn't exactly match up with my outdated conventional mores. Then – get *this* – it turns out that he wasn't a guy after all, but a girl named Viola! Which seemed pretty great at the time – I mean, we got married and all – but eventually I got to wondering what attracted me to her when I thought she was a man, and *she* got to wondering what possessed her to dress up in man's clothes and pretend to be a guy and woo Olivia for me, and our heteronormative values got pretty scrambled. But with open minds, a lot of good counseling, and the steady stream of revenue we get from parading around the daytime talk shows, everything worked out fine.

Dear Crumb: Want to go to the Youth Media Learning Network talk on Wednesday night?

Bartleby the Scrivener responds: Finally – something I *would* prefer to do! Tim Dorsey and Jeremy Engle will lead a discussion about their work with YMLN, a new national initiative to support professional development activities for educators who incorporate media production into their teaching and learning practices with young people. The talk will run from 7-8 in Barn 1.

Dear Crumb: Anyone up for yoga today at 5, or euchre or soccer tomorrow at 7?

Jane Eyre responds: As Adele's governess, I recommend that she pursue all three. Yoga (in Barn 1) strengthens the body and calms the mind. Euchre (in the Blue Parlor) is a lovely form of amusement, but it will also further Adele's study of mathematics by introducing her to the concept of probability. And soccer is an excellent way for her to get some cardio. And I sure hope that doing all three, along with violin lessons, community service, and six hours of SAT-prep class a week, will help her get into an Ivy League school, because if she doesn't, Rochester's going to wonder why he spent all that dough on private tutoring and I'll have hell to pay.

Dear Crumb: Any news on the water shortage?

The Ancient Mariner responds: You killed an albatross, didn't you? Don't say I didn't warn you. You're lucky, though. Times were you'd have to go through the "water, water everywhere, nor any drop to drink" torment, but the Universal Fates have softened a lot in their old age, so all they're asking you to do is take quick showers, put up with the possible closing of the laundry room, and generally watch your water usage. Now if you think that's a harsh punishment, talk to the wedding guest in my poem. First I waylay him *on his way into the ceremony* to bore him with my adventures at sea, and then he misses the whole first hour of the reception, where I hear they had mini crab cakes and a really nice baked Brie.

Dear Crumb: Should I speed through Ripton?

Inspector Javert responds: Oh, my friend, you would dare exceed the posted 30 m.p.h speed limit in your brazenness and moral turpitude? Then I shall await you, with my radar gun in one hand and my unflagging determination in the other. I will pursue you wherever you may go; I will haunt you every waking moment and your dreams; I will not cease until you are brought to justice and issued the citation proclaiming you law-breaker, intransigent malefactor, vulgar swine. And that's only for speeding – imagine what would happen were I to find that secreted within your vehicle are purloined baked goods.

Dear Crumb: When's the All-School Photo?

Dorian Gray responds: Right before lunch tomorrow, just across 125 from the Inn. Now listen to me very carefully. When Ed tells you to smile, smile. Later, if you order a copy of the picture, just look at it. Do *not* – and this is *very important* – do *not* wish that you could remain young and energetic forever while the photograph ages. Trust me on this one. You want to forestall the ravages of time, try Botox.

Dear Crumb: What if I want to hear even more about the practices espoused in the Drew Lecture?

Hester Prynne responds: I'm familiar with situations involving "They Say/I Say," so I know what I'm talking about when I tell you to go to Gerald Graff and Cathy Birkenstein-Graff's workshop, which builds on their book "They Say/I Say," tomorrow night from 7-9 in Barn 1. There, you'll learn about writing assignments that are not unbearably pointless. I firmly believe that we have to strive for more meaningful forms of expression and assessment; for example, I don't feel I deserved that "A."

Dear Crumb: Is Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire really this Friday's film?

Harold from Harold and the Purple Crayon responds: Yeah, because that candy-ass Potter apparently needs *another* royalty check. I've been charming kids for years with my little magic drawing act, but apparently that wasn't good enough for the suits in Corporate, so they bring in this complete nerd-job with glasses and a scar, decide he's the next star, then give him all the latest CGI gadgetry, *and* this unbelievable wand, *and* Emma Watson. When all you've got is a %*#@ magic crayon, the kids are like, "So? I've got the Crayola 64-color box, and all you have is *purple*." Brats. And here's the kicker: they let *him* be "Harry" when I've been asking for that nickname for years, because let's face it, "Harold" sounds about as cool to kids today as a superhero whose special power is the ability to do long division really well. Ah, go watch the little @&\$'s film. See if I care. I'm gonna go have a smoke.

Dear Crumb: I hear the Frost Picnic is this Saturday, and I'd love to go. How do I get there?

The boy from "Out, Out—" responds: Hang on a sec – just let me finish cutting this stove wood. Beautiful up here, isn't it? Five mountain ranges, one behind the other under the sunset... What's that, Sis? Time for supp-AGHGHGIIAIGHAHAH!!!! MY HAND!! MY HAND!!! Such pain...such horrible pain! No, don't worry about me. Turn to your affairs...go to the picnic...I'm sure the Crumb'll have directions... Everything's going dark... Little...less...

Dear Crumb: Did you hear that Saturday's dance will be an all-retro affair – music of the 1970's and 1980's?

J. Alfred Prufrock responds: Let us go! Then you and I, when the evening is spread out against the sky, can dance to Culture Club and ABBA and relive the past! Such a glorious time, the past. I had hair. I ate a peach whenever I wanted one. Women used to stop and ask me what I thought of Michelangelo. Now they just walk past without even noticing I'm there. Anyway, it should be great fun. If you have any more questions, you can find me on the beach.

Dear Crumb: What do you think will happen in the last Harry Potter book?

Vladimir and Estragon respond: No idea. Probably something exciting. Even more exciting than all the stuff that happens to us. Apparently some of the faculty children have written their own endings to the series and plan to read them in the Blue Parlor one of these nights. If you'd like to pen one of your own and join them, give it your best shot! We don't recommend using Beckett for inspiration.

Dear Crumb: Is there a place on campus where cell phones actually work?

Colonel Kurtz responds: There's a path around the edge the meadow behind Treman that ends in a small clearing with a picnic table in it; you can usually get pretty good reception there. It's a good thing too, because there's no telling how some people respond to being stuck in some remote location, totally cut off from the world. One moment you're enjoying a little break from the hustle and bustle of the 9-to-5 world, the next you're using severed heads as lawn decorations. And if Marlowe could have called to tell me he was coming, I would have arranged a more suitable welcome instead of having his helmsman impaled by a well-aimed spear.

Dear Crumb: Would you like to read your work in the Blue Parlor some Sunday night?

The narrator of Remembrance of Things Past responds: That's very kind of you to invite me, but I don't think I could possibly fit my story into the fifteen-minute allotment. But you certainly should sign up at the Front Desk if you'd like to read your original work this or any Sunday evening. There will be light refreshments for the audience – some wine, some cheese, maybe a *madeleine*. That reminds me....

Dear Crumb: Can I bring my dog to campus?

Molly Bloom responds: No. I said no. You can't. No.

Dear Crumb: What's the answer to Friday's trivia question?

Tom Buchanan responds: F. Scott Fitzgerald. Everybody knew that – Tilda Kapuya, the Christerical Duo, Jessica Dettman, Liz Bedell, Erin Kinnen and Rachel Narrow, David Miller, and the Boys of Barn East. And if you ask me, Scotty was right all along thinking that *The Great Gatsby* was a rotten title. What's so great about a guy who violates every noise ordinance in the county, then runs over your mistress? Look at me, on the other hand. My house is great. My days playing football in New Haven were great. My ability to take down a drink as if it were a drop in the bottom of a glass, or compel someone from the room as though I'm moving a checker to another square? Great and great. Plus, I'm still alive at the end of the story. So there.

From the Crumb Bum: Jim Maddox has been complaining that Lawrence Sterne was also a correct response to Wednesday's trivia question. What should I do to stop his incessant badgering?

Moby-Dick responds: Look, there's really only one way to handle the guy who's so convinced that he's right that he'll go to any lengths to demonstrate his superiority and abase you in the process. First, lure him aboard a whaling ship, perhaps by means of a pop-up ad awarding him a free oceangoing cruise. Once the vessel has reached a suitably remote part of the Pacific, bear down on his advancing prow, smiting your jaws amid fiery showers of foam. Then, using the white buttress of your broad forehead, ram through the timbers of the starboard bow, thus sending the vessel to the depths and you back to future *Crumbs* unbothered by querulous readers.

Dear Crumb: What's the Top Ten category this week?

Montresor responds: It's the Top Ten Ways of Dealing with That Classmate Who Won't Stop Talking. And don't you dare say "Bring him down into a dank basement under the pretext of showing him an exceptional pipe of Amontillado, then chain him to a crypt wall and immure him within." That's *my* signature move.

Tuesday, July 3, 2007

Emily revises her beneficent philosophy of governance and decides that a Reign of Terror is what Bread Loaf needs after all. Theatre Staff hastily begins construction of a dais upon which Emily can sit at mealtimes and from which she can hurl invective at the unwashed masses.

Thursday, Lunchtime

More **photos**: the Waitstaff before lunch, the staff after the meal. The senior class photo will be taken Thursday at 5, after which Ed works only with Adirondack chairs, which never blink as the picture's being taken and can usually be depended on to stand still.

Thursday, Lunchtime

Draws for **Wimbleloaf** and Sunday morning tee times for the **Bread Loaf Scramble** posted outside the Dining Hall. Sign up today or tomorrow if you'd like to participate in either; both events offer the thrill of humiliating, or the shame of being humiliated by, Ed Brown.

Thursday, 5:00

Senior Class Meeting in the Blue Parlor. On the agenda: moving forward with class president elections and other various Commencement-related business. Having already obtained your cap sizes, the Director's Assistants will this time measure your neck, chest, sleeve, waist, and inseam; your complimentary custom-tailored swallowtail coat, ball gown or wetsuit will be ready by Week 4.

Thursday, 7-8:30 pm, Barn 1

Caroline Eisner, BreadNet director, and Shel Sax, IT director at Middlebury College and director of BLTN technology, will **speak about BreadNet** and other Bread Loaf technology. Brendan McGrath, Patricia Echessa-Kariuki, and Tamar Paull will talk about several BreadNet projects involving students and Bread Loaf colleagues. Brendan's project was featured in June at the National Writing Project Conference on "Teaching Writing in the 21st Century," and Pat and Tamar will present at the November conference of the National Council of Teachers in New York.

Friday, 10 a.m.

The deadline for submitting your ideas for the **Top Ten Ways of Dealing with That Classmate Who Won't Stop Talking**. The *Crumb* will publish the most creative and amusing ideas in Friday's issue but admits no culpability should the tactics outlined therein be implemented in class and the logorrheic in question rendered ill-tempered and litigious as a result.

Friday, All Afternoon

Lots and lots of free time – a great chance to work on your submission for the **Robert Haiduke Poetry Contest**. You have until July 16 to submit one or two poems of no more than 40 lines each to Karen Browne in the Office; your name should not appear on the poems themselves, but on a slip of paper attached to your submissions. David Huddle and Lucy Maddox will read each entry and will decide to which winning poem or poems to award the \$1500 in prize money.

Friday, 9 p.m.

Barn Movie Night: *Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire*. This unheralded, low-budget art-house film is based on a little-known series of children's books by an obscure Scottish author. In this installment, the title character endures the usual trials and tribulations of a year in high school – peer pressure, teachers with grudges, a duel with the newly reincarnated embodiment of all that is evil in the universe. Free salty snacks dispensed by the Director's Assistants. Any adults showing up in costume will be summarily dumped in John's Pond.

Saturday, All Day

OK, if you've attended all, most, or even some of the aforementioned dozen-plus events, you deserve a break. Get off campus for a while. A great escape today is **Brandon's Independence Day Celebration** (one of the Vermont Chamber of Commerce's Top Ten Events of the Summer). The park in the center of town opens at 9:00 am for activities, games, music, and food, with Vermont's largest Independence Day parade heading down Main Street starting at 1 and a fiddler's contest following the parade. More activities, food and fireworks at dusk at Park Village.

Saturday, 9-1

Retro Dance in the Barn. Only music from the Seventies and Eighties, courtesy of your DJ Jon Freeman, whose severely receded hairline serves as one explanation for his eagerness to reexperience bygone decades. Period dress is welcome but certainly not required, although some community members with severely outdated notions of fashion may find their regular attire acclaimed as fabulous costumes.

And if you'd like to DJ an hour or two of next Saturday's dance, talk to one of the Director's Assistants. Bread Loaf owns a modest selection of dance music, but you'll probably need to supplement our holdings with your own library. The job pays well, and just because you're the DJ doesn't mean you can't step out on the floor and get down with your bad self from time to time.

Sunday, 8-9 a.m.

At breakfast, play the fun game "Guess How Late That Person Who Just Stumbled In Stayed At Barn East After The Dance." That is, if you didn't stay late at Barn East yourself and are currently staring at the wall in a vain effort to keep the room from spinning.

Sunday, 7

The summer's first **Blue Parlor reading**. That is, assuming some people sign up at the Front Desk to read their original work – poetry, fiction, prose, anything. The Blue Parlor readings are a cherished Bread Loaf tradition, so it'd be a shame if no one offered to read and an audience assembled to watch an hour of nothingness they mistakenly assume is a performance of one of Beckett's one-act meditations on the emptiness of existence.

The Crumb

The Daily Bulletin of the Bread Loaf School of English

Volume 88, Number 7

Wednesday, July 4, 2007

Trivia

Which poet once became so lost in his thoughts while riding a bus that when it reached his house and his children rose to get off, he asked whom they were going to visit?

Events

Director's Reception
5:00, West Lawn

Power Yoga
5:00, Barn 1

Youth Media Learning Network
7:00, Barn 1

Menu

Roast marinated leg of lamb with herb jus or deep-dish spinach pie with cucumber-yogurt sauce; zucchini sauté with fennel; stuffed grape leaves; lemon-rosemary pilaf; lemon pound cake.

Weather

Today:
PM storms,
76/62.

Tomorrow:
Thundershowers,
76/61.

Friday:
Scattered storms,
76/58.

Stretching: The Truth

Kate McKenna will lead a Power Yoga class this afternoon from 5-6 in Barn 1. Starting next week, she'll hold classes at that time and place every Tuesday and Wednesday. Participants of all levels are encouraged to attend; bring water and, if you have one, a yoga mat.

The Only Good Reception We Get Here

Cell phones and radios may be rendered useless up here, but the Wednesday Director's Receptions have a distinct touch of class that even Michael Armstrong's tendency to flick cashews at the back of Emily Bartels' head can't dispel. If you're one of the fortunate invited, present yourself, dressed somewhat snappily, at the West Lawn (or the Inn porch if it rains) at 5 today for some elegant hors-d'oeuvres and a cocktail prepared by expert mixmasters Eric, Jen, and Christie. (They promise that by the end of the summer, they'll be tossing bottles around like Tom Cruise in *Cocktail*.)

Photo Finish

The Waitstaff, their aprons as yet unstained by errant dollops of spicy apricot glaze and their visages untroubled by persnickety diners' requests to have the vegetarian option with extra coleslaw but without the chips, will gather on the Inn porch before lunch tomorrow to have their photo taken. After lunch, the multitasking and variegated Bread Loaf staff will congregate in the same place for the same purpose.

Holy Sheet

One of Bread Loaf's most sacred texts is the master schedule pinned to the Office bulletin board, which notes all scheduled events for all Barn classrooms. If you are planning any kind of meeting (review session, judo class, Faulknerholics Anonymous meeting), you must reserve the space on that master schedule first.

Peaceable Kingdom

Please do your part to keep the campus a quiet place; adjourn porch parties to the Barn at 11, be mindful that others may be trying to study while you're raising the roof in your room, and refrain from scheduling loud and potentially distracting events in empty classrooms during. Overstressed students whose thoughts on *King Lear* are constantly interrupted by noisy neighbors are prone to "pull an Edgar" by running around naked by the Tea Cabin and speaking in jibberish about the foul fiend until MacNair successfully coaxes him or her back to the dorm with her gentle reassurances and a trail of scone crumbs.

You'll Have a Great Tim

Bread Loaf alum Tim Dorsey and Jeremy Engle will discuss their work with the Youth Media Learning Network tonight at 7 in Barn 1. YMLN is a new national initiative to support professional development activities for educators who incorporate media production into their teaching and learning practices with young people. All are welcome to join this discussion about youth media and its impact on students and educators.

Senior Class of Un-Presidented Quality

That should change by dinnertime tomorrow, because the Senior Meeting at 5 in the Blue Parlor involves finishing the election of a class president. Ed Brown will also be there to take the class photo. Word is that it shouldn't take more than thirty minutes to wrap up all the business, but the *Crumb*, always looking out for your well-being, reminds you to contact your doctor (Dr. Bartels, in this case) immediately in the event of an election lasting more than four hours.

Quartet of Presentations Show Net Worth

Come to Barn 1 tomorrow night from 7-8:30 to hear about exciting ways BreadNet can be used, and has been used, to enliven and connect classrooms. The lineup:

- Caroline Eisner will speak about how online discussions can increase critical thinking skills.
- Brendan McGrath, who taught middle school students in Aleknagik, Alaska, for three years, will talk about the process which led to his students' book about their Yup'ik village being presented at the Smithsonian Museum for the American Indian and about their electronic portfolios, which are in wide use.
- Tamar Paull will talk about a BreadNet exchange between her Community Prep School students in Providence, RI, and students in Nairobi, Kenya, highlighting relationships that developed over two years and what they meant to young writers.
- Pat Echessa-Kariuki will describe and comment on a writing and publishing collaboration between her 10th grade students in Nairobi and students in Ceci Lewis's creative writing class in Tombstone, AZ.

Only 1 Coffeehouse Act: Second Coming?

Signs have been posted all week outside the Dining Hall for the Bread Loaf T-Shirt Design Contest and the Coffeehouse, but interest in both has been alarmingly low. If no one submits a T-shirt design (two-color max, "Bread Loaf" or "BLSE" somewhere in the design) by this Sunday, we're just going to try to sell you a plain white Hanes by explaining that it's a nihilistic "text." And Will Cleveland worries that if no one besides him offers to perform at the July 13th Coffeehouse, he'll run through his repertoire in about an hour and have to resort to a 25-minute round of "Row, Row, Row Your Boat" to fill out his set.

What Did I Do To Be So Lackin' Blue?

Was it something I said? Did I imply that the Blue Parlor audiences come armed with rotten fruit scavenged from the Dining Hall dumpster? Did I mistakenly say that only published work with a first print run of over 20,000 copies could be read in the Blue Parlor? Did I just forget to say "Please sign up to read in the Blue Parlor?"

Whatever the reason, no one's yet volunteered to read their fiction, poetry, or prose this Sunday at 7. The sign-up sheet is waiting for you at the Front Desk, and your friends are waiting to hear what wonderful writing you've produced. Keep this Bread Loaf tradition alive!

Go Fourth Without Bookstore

The Bookstore will be closed today in honor of Independence Day and in recognition of the brave soldiers who fought and died at Lexington and Concord protesting the provision of the Intolerable Acts that decreed that "*only His Majesty King George III may set the business hours of book-merchants.*" At least so says resident revisionist historian Ed Brown, whose recent de-accreditation by the American Historical Association was, he assures me, the result of a clerical error.

To Drop Something: Drop Everything, See Elaine

5:00 today is the absolute last minute you can officially add or drop a course to your summer transcript. See Elaine before that time if you want to quit a course because every time you make a comment, the professor turns to the rest of the class and says "Did he just say..." before repeating your contribution word for word.

Dances Not Only Time "Techno" Found in Barn

Bread Loaf's continuing commitment to technological upgrades has brought wireless capacity to the Barn, adding it to the long list of spaces in which you can sit down intending to work, only to be lured into prolonged procrastination by the irresistible urge to go to JibJab.com to watch American presidents lip-syncing "The Star-Spangled Banner."

Slaying Girlfriend's Father, Her Brother, Your Uncle Not Among Requirements for M.Litt.

Emily Bartels will talk about Bread Loaf's M.Litt. program and clear up any other potential misconceptions next Tuesday at 5 in the Blue Parlor. All students currently pursuing an M.Litt. or interested in doing so should plan to attend.

A Little Touch of Harry in the Night

Some Bread Loafers are getting excited about the arrival of *Order of the Phoenix* in theatres on the 13th. And general anticipation of *The Deathly Hallows*, which hits bookstores on the 21st, is extensive enough that several professors are resigned to abandoning their course syllabi the week of July 23rd when their students insist on impassioned discussions of the morality of the Crucifixus Curse instead.

To add to the growing hysteria, we're showing *Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire* at 9 on Friday in the Barn. Remember that the film is intended to enable your mind to wind down after the week's mental exertions; accordingly, just enjoy the film instead of reading too much into Harry's preoccupation with broomsticks and wands.

Speaking of Witch...

If you have an idea about what will happen (or what you *hope* will happen) in Book 7, why not write down a synopsis or even a final chapter and submit it to Sara Blair, who's coordinating a Blue Parlor gathering for the community to share our imagined endings to the saga. Students, professors, children, adults - everyone's invited to contribute.

Can't Repeat the Past? Of Course You Can!

This Saturday's Retro Dance (9 p.m.-1 a.m.) proves that Gatsby was right all along, as those of you old enough to remember the 70's and 80's will be transported back in time as you dance to "Stayin' Alive," "Tainted Love," and a host of other classic tunes - but NOT "Total Eclipse of the Heart," which the *Crumb* Bum, despite being happily married today, can't help remembering as the song to which Jenny Buckman was dancing with Mark Dearden - *Mark Dearden!!* - at his eighth-grade Halloween dance. He'll salve the pain of that distant day by bringing his ID and enjoying an Otter Creek or two while he serves as your DJ; don't forget to bring yours too.

He Will Not Mind You Stopping There

Robert Frost used to visit Bread Loaf, but because his earthly spirit doesn't venture as far from the Homer Noble Farm these days, we now go to him. At this Saturday's Frost Picnic, you can enjoy a cookout dinner by the farmhouse and tour the Frost Cabin, where many of the poet's effects (and even some of his handwriting on the walls) remain. Tours begin at 5:30, and the buffet line opens at 6.

To get to the Homer Noble Farm from Bread Loaf, walk or drive down Route 125 until you see the white sign for Frost Road on your right. There's no parking at the farmhouse, so leave your car at the adjacent Robert Frost Wayside and walk about half a mile up Frost Road until you see the farmhouse on your left.

The Miller's Tale

Jim Miller, editor of the Asheville *Biscuit*, sends along news of the website GoodReads. "It's a bit like Myspace for bibliophiles," Jim writes, "and it's free. You create a profile, select books you've read or are currently reading, then rate and review them. You can add friends, start groups, etc. It's fun and has possible applications in the classroom." Jim adds that he's lonely online, so come be his friend at <http://www.goodreads.com/user/show/122183>.

For Those Harboring Spike Jones

If you're just dying to play some volleyball, check the court for casual games from 11:30-12:45 on weekdays. If you are actually holding the director of *Being John Malkovich* hostage until he agrees to change the spelling of his last name from "Jonze" to the more standard "Jones," then I implore you to release him, after which we can look into treatment programs for your obvious and bizarre psychological hangup.

Answering Trivia Question Fun & Is Free

Terrible news: Old Piney has been stumped. Neither he nor anyone else correctly named Hans Christian Andersen as the author who stipulated that his funeral march's beat comport with the small steps of the children following his coffin. And I'm getting tired of all this trivia-related complaining. First I hear that the questions are *too easy*; now everyone's whining that they've been *too hard*. OK, Goldilocks, I hope today's question and the hints hidden in the headlines are *just right*, and that you don't give your breakfast waiter this kind of trouble about the temperature of your Cream of Wheat.

Babble On Revisited

If you sit in class and silently seethe while one of your fellow scholars blathers on and on, wasting what otherwise would be valuable minutes of learning time with a lengthy re-summarization of something the professor just said or a personal anecdote of dubious relevance to the text under discussion, put the time to good use! Get out a blank sheet of notebook paper and channel that anger into creative entries for the **Top Ten Ways of Dealing with That Classmate Who Won't Stop Talking**. No one will notice; your classmates will think you're taking notes, and your professor will be too busy scribbling down his or her own submissions. Get your group's best ideas to Jon Freeman by 10 Friday morning, then hope a bunch of them make the cut and appear in that day's *Crumb*.

The Crumb

The Daily Bulletin of the Bread Loaf School of English

Volume 88, Number 8

Thursday, July 5, 2007

Trivia

Toni Morrison's birthday is February 18 – which is also the day what novel, about which Morrison has written and lectured, was published?

Events

Staff Photo
1:30, Porch

Senior Meeting
5:00, Blue Parlor

Madrigalists
5:00, Barn

BreadNet in the Classrooms
7-8:30, Barn 1

Soccer 7:00

Angels in America

7-10, Barn 6

Gilmore 9:00

Menu

Chicken marsala or wild mushroom crepes; summer roasted veggies; rice and grain pilaf; chocolate cream pie.

Weather

Today:
Isolated storms,
77/60.

Tomorrow:
Thundershowers,
78/58.

Frost Picnic:
Isolated storms,
74/57.

Tech-ceptional BreadNetters Talk Tonight

Tonight at 7 in Barn 1, four Bread Loafers will talk about ways BreadNet has been used and can be used to enliven and connect classrooms. You'll hear:

- Caroline Eisner on how online discussions can increase critical thinking skills.
- Brendan McGrath on how his students in Aleknagik, Alaska created electronic portfolios and a book about their Yup'ik village which was later presented at the Smithsonian Museum for the American Indian.
- Tamar Paull on a BreadNet exchange between her Community Prep School students in Providence and students in Nairobi, Kenya and what the relationships that developed over two years meant to young writers.
- Pat Echessa-Kariuki on a writing and publishing collaboration between her 10th grade students in Nairobi and students in Ceci Lewis's creative writing class in Tombstone, AZ.

From CNN's Senior Political Analyst

I'm here in Ripton, where it's hard to predict who'll come out on top when all the votes for Senior Class President are counted at today's class meeting (5 p.m. Blue Parlor). That's mostly because I have no idea who's even running. I do know that Ed Brown will be there to take the class photo, so we'll see how the candidates handle themselves in front of a camera and under the potentially withering sarcasm of the photographer. Then they'll move on to the election, which sources tell me is likely to come down to the central issue of the number of votes each candidate receives. That's all from here – now back to you, Wolf.

Madrigalists Do Nice Work

The first Madrigalists rehearsal was a resounding success, with 17 singers combining to tackle Gershwin's "Nice Work If You Can Get It" and a setting of Ben Jonson's "Drink To Me Only With Thine Eyes." It's certainly not too late to join their ranks; if your summer could use a little song in it, come to today's 5 p.m. rehearsal in the Barn.

Loafers Don't Like Coffee?

Signups for the July 13th Coffeehouse extravaganza are still surprisingly slow. If you have a talent you'd like to showcase, add your name to the list of acts outside the Dining Hall. You needn't be good at whatever you volunteer to do – we don't expect the skill sets of English graduate students to extend much beyond speed-parsing – so feel free to contribute a facetious or otherwise uproarious display of "talent" to the night's entertainment.

...Or T?

Designs for the 2007 Bread Loaf T-shirt haven't been pouring in either. If you can capture the essence of Bread Loaf or of this particular summer in a two-color, print-ready design that includes the words "Bread Loaf" or "BLSE," you should submit your vision to a Director's Assistant by Sunday. The winner receives a free T-shirt and a cash prize.

Get Tangled Up in Blue

There are no cash prizes for Blue Parlor readers, but the praise and applause of the friends who assemble to hear you read your original work at one of the Sunday night readings is of inestimable value. Plenty of spaces remain on the Front Desk's sign-up sheet, so if you have poetry, fiction, or prose you'd like to share, you know where to head to secure a slot.

GilmLore: The Bonfire of the Vanities

In 1995 the Gilmore residents faced a severe firewood shortage and a surly crowd expecting the conflagration that customarily accompanies the faculty reading. Willing to sacrifice anything to uphold the Thursday night tradition, they stoked the flames with the most readily available material – the mahogany vanities that graced each suite. The fire soon consumed these, however, and creature comfort after creature comfort – the four-poster bed frames, the rolltop desks, even the snooker table – had to be yielded up to the insatiable flames. The squalor in which the Men of Gilmore have since lived is a daily reminder of the courageous souls who that fateful night chose their civic duty over their luxurious trappings.

Let this story of their charity loosen your purse-strings when you troop up to Gilmore tonight at 9 for the bonfire and faculty reading; contribute a couple of bucks to offset the cost of the beverages and toss in a little something extra so that our boys might, by 2008, have mattresses instead of piles of straw.

Dead Man Running

The Bread Loaf summer theater season gets going next Tuesday, when the Acting Ensemble and Director Ben Steinfeld present a staged reading of Sarah Ruhl's *Dead Man's Cell Phone* at 7:30 in the Little Theatre. Ruhl was the 2003 recipient of the Helen Merrill Emerging Playwrights Award, a recognition she's since justified with *The Clean House* (2005 Pulitzer Prize finalist) and a recent MacArthur Fellowship. Her plays have been produced at major theatres around the world and translated into six languages.

Don't Take the Road Less Travelled By

It may make all the difference, but it won't get you fed. Only by following the crowd on Saturday will you get to the Frost Picnic at the Homer Noble Farm, a quick trip down 125 and a half-mile walk up Frost Road. Mealtime is 6:00; tours of the Frost Cabin, where the poet spent many a summer, will start at 5:30. The most precious artifacts have long since been removed to Middlebury College for safekeeping from the harsh winters, but the cabin still houses objects that inspired some of Frost's lesser poems, such as "The Muffin-Pan," "The Need of Writing the Temperature on My Pantry Door," and "Big Ol' Tub o' Nails."

Orientation Conversation Invitation

Jonathan Strong invites all interested Bread Loafers to the Blue Parlor at 9 on Sunday evening (and every subsequent Sunday) for an informal discussion of issues of sexual orientation in teaching, amongst students, and in life in general.

"He Who Must Not Be Named" Actually Just

Ralph Fiennes

On Friday, catch *Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire* at 9 in the Barn. Free popcorn courtesy of your Director's Assistants. And if you're very, very lucky, mid-film shadow animals on the screen courtesy of the Barn Bat. It has been a while since it was last sighted, though, so as much as it pains the *Crumb* Bum to admit it, there's a distinct possibility that it has since gone to the Great Guano-Encrusted Cave in the Sky.

Start Work on Finale Project Now

Once you've seen *Goblet* on Friday, quickly reread the 1,548 pages of Books 5 and 6 and write your own ending to the series. Others who are just wild about Harry are doing the same, and Sara Blair is working to set up a time and place for contributors to share their proposed endings. The following endings have already been used and should be avoided: Harry lights out for the territory; Harry takes his little sister to Central Park to ride the carousel; Harry shoots his mentally challenged friend to spare him further suffering.

Curses Foiled Again

The *Crumb* hit the stands at 12:40 yesterday afternoon. By approximately 12:44, the *Crumb* Bum's mistake of calling the Cruciatus Curse the "Crucifixus" Curse had been pointed out by numerous ~~sadly fanatical whack jobs detail-obsessed freaks~~ attentive readers. The *Crumb* apologizes ~~disingenuously~~ for the mistake.

Retro Dance Makes Me Feel I Been There Before

If you're one of the younger students here this summer, you were born in the mid-1980's. This means that your memory of the music of that decade probably goes no further than the Care Bears' theme song. To you, the 1970's are almost incomprehensibly ancient, indistinguishable in your consciousness from whenever it was that girls wore poodle skirts and everyone was drinking bathtub gin. Well, Saturday's Retro Dance (9-1) will awaken in you a new respect for the musical magic those two decades produced.

Imagine, if you can, a time when *Off the Wall* was merely the title of a Michael Jackson album and not an apt description of the artist himself. A time when music videos taught us not to be surprised when a group of people in a bar or subway station spontaneously burst into a coordinated dance number. A time when a dewy-eyed Madonna told us she was "*Like A Virgin*" and smitten teenage boys overlooked the fact that while a simile invites a comparison between two objects, it implicitly acknowledges that the items so compared (here, "Madonna" and "virgin") are ultimately asynonymous. Such were the times we'll commemorate this weekend; bring your ID with you along with your moonwalking and/or break-dancing talents.

The Beasts in the Jungle

Susanne Wofford and Jacques Lezra write: "We're looking for a dog-and-cat-sitter over the midterm break. We leave on July 17th in the afternoon, and return on Sunday, July 22nd. At issue: a very agreeable, sweet and companionable 7-year old golden retriever and an inconspicuous old cat, in a many-bedroomed lodge cabin a quarter of a mile from the BL campus. All modern conveniences! Huge fireplace in a fantastic living room! We're offering a very substantial remuneration. Please contact Susanne or Jacques."

Mystery Author: You Don't Know About Me?

William Butler Yeats was the poet who became so lost in thought during a bus ride that he failed to recognize his own home when the bus stopped there. Despite clues such as "1 Coffeehouse Act: Second Coming?" and, more obscurely, "Answering Trivia Fun, & Is Free," only the Christichal Duo of Beveridge and Eye got it right.

The first and last words of today's mystery novel are lurking somewhere in the headlines; if you think you know what book they're from, email Jon Freeman with your best guess.

Procrastinate Friday; Saturday, Make It Up

Anyone interested in being a part of an informal Improv group, or in just finding out about Improv, is invited to a workshop this Saturday from 1:30 to 3:00 in Barn A. No prior experience is required – so if you think you're funny, or you just like to laugh, we hope to see you there.

Theatre Guest Builds Bridges of Addison County

Please welcome Kiyoko Sims from the Minneapolis Children's Theatre's 'Neighborhood Bridges' program to Bread Loaf, where she will be conducting workshops in Drama in the Classroom and working with Bread Loaf students to bring drama programs into their schools. See Carol MacVey for more info about Ms. Sims' visit!

Truly Revolutionary Sighting

The Fourth of July brought with it a bevy of wildlife sightings and just plain wild sightings around campus. Nick Sberna saw a weasel skitter across the Gilmore road, and Julia Callahan met up with a moose by the Frost Trail as she was jogging down 125.

That's when things get a little strange. A pickup truck that stopped for the moose was being driven by a man with an eye patch – possibly a pirate – and later that day, members of the New Media and the Teaching of Writing class working outside on a class project were confronted with the odd sight of a man in a red coat, ruffled shirt, breeches, tricorn hat, and musket, wanting to have his picture taken by the Printer's Cabin. I know that Homeland Security heightens security around July 4th, but I imagine that a coordinated attempt by British troops to recapture the colonies for the Crown with the assistance of mercenary land-pirates is not the kind of incursion they're anticipating. Report any news regarding the movements of General Burgoyne to the *Crumb* posthaste, and remember that one lantern in the top-floor Inn window signals a land assault, while two means that the British navy is coming ashore at John's Pond.

To Strive, To Seek, To Find

Unfortunately, "weasel," "man who might be pirate," and "guy in Revolutionary War regalia" are not among the items you'll be asked to find during tomorrow's Scavenger Hunt. The hunt begins at Barn East at 5:17 p.m. sharp and concludes at 8:00. Teams (maximum size: four) should bring a digital camera and may need to roam as far as Middlebury in order to successfully acquire or photograph the necessary oddities, ephemera, and tchotchkes.

If It's a Job You're Hunting For

A representative from Carney, Sandoe & Associates, the nation's preeminent placement agency for independent school teachers, will meet with interested Bread Loafers on July 16th. You must sign up outside the Office for an appointment time; act quickly, as slots tend to disappear fast.

IIII Just Received This Announcement

Students from Michael Cadden's Contemporary American Drama Class will be showing Tony Kushner's *Angels in America* in Barn 6 tonight and Friday night from 7-10 and say that anyone else who wants to watch to is welcome to stop by. BYO popcorn!

The Only Hot Air Around Here These Days

Submissions for the **Top Ten Ways of Dealing with That Classmate Who Won't Stop Talking** have already begun trickling in, but there's plenty of time for your group to concoct some delicious, malicious revenge tactics before the 10 a.m. deadline for inclusion in tomorrow's *Crumb*. A request from the students who are the targets of this week's list to submit a companion list of "Top Ten Reasons We're Smarter Than Everyone Else in the Class" was enthusiastically denied by the *Crumb* Bum.

The Crumb

The Daily Bulletin of the Bread Loaf School of English

Volume 88, Number 9

Friday, July 6, 2007

Trivia

What enormous literary undertaking was finally completed on April 19, 1928?

Events

Friday

Scavenger Hunt
5:17, Barn East

Angels in America
(Part II)
7-10, Barn 6

Goblet of Fire, 9

Saturday

Brandon
Independence Day
Parade, 1:00

Improv
1:30-3, Barn A

Frost Cabin Tours,
5:30-6:15

Frost Picnic, 6
Retro Dance, 10-1

Sunday

Golf Scramble,
10:30

Blue Parlor, 7:00
Sexual Orientation
Discussion Group,
9:00, Blue Parlor

Menu

Meat or veggie
lasagna; zucchini;
garlic bread;
lemon fruit tarts.

Weather

Today:
Thunderstorms,
77/57.

Weekend:
Scattered storms,
highs around 80.

Oh, He Deeded It to Middlebury?

The *Crumb* is hazy on how exactly the Homer Noble Farm, once owned by Robert Frost, came to be in the possession of Middlebury College – but what's really important is that at tomorrow's Frost Picnic you'll get to visit the farm and the Frost Cabin, sacred ground to many a Bread Loaf. The cabin has been preserved largely as Frost left it – his handwriting still adorns the kitchen and closet walls, his shaving equipment is set out in the bedroom, and some of his books line the shelves. The Director's Assistants will lead tours of the cabin starting at 5:30, and dinner begins at 6 down by the main farmhouse.

You won't dine on food with a particular Frost connection (oven-birds, blueberries, birch beer), but the menu, which tentatively includes buffalo burgers and blackened tuna, isn't your everyday barbecue, nor is the chance to tour the Frost Cabin something you want to pass up. The Noble Farm is half a mile up Frost Road, the dirt road adjacent to the Robert Frost Wayside (not the Frost Trail) on Route 125. If you drive, you must park at the Wayside and walk up Frost Road to the farm.

Big Blue Reading Crew

The Blue Parlor Readings are back! MacNair Randall, Will Cleveland, Henry Melcher, and Travis Farrell will read from their work on Sunday at 7:00. Come enjoy the readings and the civilized refreshments; if you'd like to read on a future Sunday, sign up at the Front Desk.

Blue to Do Discussion, Too

If you're interested in talking about issues of sexual orientation as they relate to teaching, students, and life in general, drop by the Blue Parlor at 9 on Sunday evening for an informal discussion. Contact Jonathan Strong if you have questions.

Hogwarts Students Know How to Spell

Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire will be showing tonight at 9 in the Barn Uniplex Cinema. The theater doesn't offer cup holders or stadium seating, but we feel that its numerous amenities more than compensate. The popcorn is always free, we'll never ask if you'd like the Large Combo for only fifty cents more, the projector isn't at the mercy of some pimply, distracted teenager, and you won't be subjected to that inane Movie Jumble game that dares you to unscramble "GREGG OCLEONY." We're working on getting the Barn Bat to execute a well-timed swoop across the screen to make the delivery of Owl Post seem like it's in 3-D, but no promises.

Kushner's *Angels* Makes Huge Prophet

Prior Walter hears his prophecy and heads to heaven to confront the Council of Principalities in Part II of the HBO production of *Angels in America*, showing tonight from 7-10 in Barn 6. Michael Cadden's Contemporary American Drama class invites you to come watch with them. Over in the Barn, Harry Potter will have his hands full with Voldemort, but he should be thankful he's not going up against a truly scary adversary, like Roy Cohn.

Celebrate Good Times. Come On.

Bread Loafers don't do well with events lacking any apparent scholarly value, so if it helps make Saturday's Retro Dance more worthwhile for you, here are some study questions about the music of the 70's and 80's for you to ponder in between bouts of frenetic dancing in the Barn from 9-1 tomorrow night:

- Explain the paradoxical structure of the woman in "Brick House," who is described as sturdy ("She's a brick house") yet pliable ("letting it all hang out").
- Is one of the members of "Kool & the Gang" readily identifiable as "Kool"? If so, how can you tell?
- (for young students only) In Dead or Alive's "You Spin Me Round (Like a Record)," what is this apparently spinnable thing called a "record"?
- How did the Bee Gees ever become sex symbols?

This Cell Phone Works Perfectly Here

On Tuesday night the Bread Loaf Acting Ensemble, under the direction of Ben Steinfeld, will present a staged reading of Sarah Ruhl's play *Dead Man's Cell Phone*. The Woolly Mammoth Theatre Company describes DMCP as an "oddly mythic love story [in which] a lonely woman answers a stranger's cell phone and finds herself the unwitting guardian of his memory. Traveling literally to hell and back, Ruhl's quirky comedy is set amidst a world where technology is swallowing our souls, grieving is more complicated than we think, and everyone is desperate to make connections." Ruhl's play *The Clean House* was a Pulitzer Prize finalist in 2005, and she was recently awarded a MacArthur Fellowship. *Dead Man's Cell Phone* has been produced in theatres across the country to great critical acclaim, and the staged reading here promises to provide a memorable evening's entertainment.

State Celebrates Great Date, Late

If you missed out on the local fireworks and festivities celebrating July 4th, you're in luck. Brandon (10 miles south of East Middlebury on Route 7) hosts the largest Independence Day parade in Vermont tomorrow at 1 (get there earlier to snag a good vantage point, though), and they'll have fireworks at dusk as well. Two of the hidden gems of Addison County – Café Provence and the Briggs Carriage Bookstore/Ball & Chain Café – can be found in Brandon, so take time for some book-browsing and a good meal while you're there.

Goodwill Hunting

Let's make sure that the first-ever Bread Loaf Scavenger Hunt is a friendly competition, not a cutthroat one, by refraining from undue smack-talk and resisting the temptation to siphon the gas from the tanks of rival team members' cars. The race starts at 5:17 sharp tonight outside Barn East. Your team may not include more than four people (just adults; the Boys of Barn East caution that some of the items on the list are intended for, or obtainable by, mature audiences only), and you'll need a digital camera and a means of transportation to gather what you need before the 8:00 deadline.

Barn Readings Get Off to Strong Start

There are two authors named "Jonathan Strong" whose works can be found on Amazon.com. Our Jonathan, who will read from his fiction at the summer's first Barn faculty reading on Monday at 7:30, is the author of the novels *The Old World*, *An Untold Tale*, *Secret Words*, *A Circle Around Her*, and *Offspring*, among others. Everyone is encouraged to attend; Jonathan's work lingers in some of life's quieter corners, but traces how even there, the fault lines of conflicts over personal identity and family responsibility run deep. His readings are always subtly engrossing and thoroughly enjoyable. A reception at Treman will follow.

The other Jonathan Strong, you may want to know, is the man responsible for such riveting works as *A discourse, delivered in the North meeting-house in Bridgewater, at the funeral of Doctor Ziba Bass, September 25, 1804 and A sermon preached before the Massachusetts Missionary Society: At their annual meeting in Boston, May 24, 1808*. (Shockingly, neither is currently stocked by Amazon.com.) A Barn reading from him would be, it would seem, both tedious and unendurably noxious, given the nature of his subjects and the current state of his moldering corpse.

Writers Cast "Prescientio!" Spell, Tell Future

If you think you know what happens in Book 7 of the Harry Potter series, or if you know what you want to have happen, write down a plot summary or a last chapter and submit it to Sara Blair. Sometime soon there may be a reading of all the ways Bread Loafers imagine the saga will conclude.

Room for Improv-ment

Barn A is the place to be on Saturday at 1:30 if you're interested in joining Bread Loaf's first Improv group. The gathering will be informal and fun; no prior experience is required, so just come and have a good time.

If You Can Use Prep Positions

Bread Loaf students planning job searches will want to make an appointment with the representative from Carney, Sandoe & Associates when he or she visits on July 16th. The signup sheet is outside Elaine's office, and the schedule tends to fill up fast.

Crumb Has CrossWords for Community

The second *Crumb*sword Puzzle will appear outside the Dining Hall by breakfast tomorrow. The offer of a prize for the first person to submit a correctly solved puzzle still stands. No one got the first puzzle completely right, although Ed Brown came the closest and Jen Hansum turned it in the fastest. Both of those count for something, I suppose, but exactly what I'm not quite sure.

Bartels Assists with Production of M. Litt.

Emily Bartels requests that anyone enrolled in, or interested in, the M.Litt. program attend a meeting in the Blue Parlor next Tuesday at 5. She'll answer any questions you might have and remind participants of upcoming obligations and deadlines.

At Least These People Give of Huck

Only the Christerical Duo, Eddie Young, and Liz Bedell knew that *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn* was published on February 18, which is also Toni Morrison's birthday. The answer to today's question is hiding in a headline somewhere; if you think you've found it, send Jon Freeman your guess by Monday morning.

You Can Take It With You

Once read, your *Crumbs* deserve at least the courtesy of being recycled in the appropriate receptacle – not left on your lunch table, thence to be swept into the garbage along with the rest of the refuse. Take your copy with you and dispose of it outside the Dining Hall.

Ten Things I Hate About You

The *Crumb* hopes that this list performs a valuable public service. You may want to cut it out and paste it into your notebook; then, when the situation warrants, you can deploy one of the

Top (Approximately) Ten Ways of Dealing with That Classmate Who Won't Shut Up

25. When student begins talking, set egg timer. (DA)
24. One word: Taser. (WW, MY)
23. Feign innocence when asked about recent "Leonard Bast incident" in Davison Library. (DA)
22. Shout, "I know more words than you!" (JH)
21. Score his responses "Olympic style." Enough 2.9's from the German judge might shame him into silence. (AS)
20. Award him a B.S. in English. (LP)
19. Put on a long, hooded robe, borrow John Elder's scythe, and then hide behind the bushes. As the student walks into the Barn, step into his or her path, point ominously and vanish. (IYF)
18. Translate each sentence into Morse code by rapping your fist in an agitated manner on your desk. (IYF)
17. Shhhhhhh! We've replaced this classmate's regular coffee with New! Folger's Crystals...and Crazy Glue®. (AS)
16. Smack on side of head, saying "Sorry, deerfly." (DA)
15. Bring a wooden ventriloquist's puppet to class and make its mouth move along with the student every time he or she talks. If the student protests, point to the puppet and shrug. (IYF)
14. Arrange for a Looney Tunes accident, such as a falling anvil or exploding cake. (LP)
13. Shove a well-oiled copy of *The Faerie Queene* between his flapping gums. (WW)
12. Threaten to throw him "Through a Glass Darkly." (DA)
11. Declare your dominance by humping his leg. (LP)
10. Slip some Robitussin into her fitness water. (MY)
9. Threaten to go Chaucerian on his ass. (LP)
8. Allude to Cemetery of Loquacious Students situated along Route 125. (DA)
7. Wait until July 21st, then beat him to death with the new Harry Potter book. (LP)
6. Ask the person, "Would you care for a caramel and peanut butter treat?" (IYF)
5. Deploy patented Emily Bartels death glare. (OXA)
4. Fill her shampoo bottle with moose pheromone. (AS)
3. Unleash knapsack full of angry swallows. (DA)
2. When she finishes speaking, reply with "Yeah, I read that in Wikipedia too." (EMS)
1. Wait until the person is finished talking, pause, and then ask, "Did someone just fart?" (IYF)

Current Standings: Director's Assistants (DA) 11, Apple Seedlings (AS) 8, WarrenWights (WW) 5, Inn Your Face (IYF) 5, Larch Porch (LP) 5, Oxford Assistants (OXA) 4, Boys of Barn East (BOBE) 3, Michael Yeakey (MY) 3, Exiles on Main Street (EMS) 3, Waitstaff (WS) 2, Jessica Horner (JH) 1.

The Crumb

The Daily Bulletin of the Bread Loaf School of English

Volume 88, Number 10

Monday, July 9, 2007

Trivia

Which Marx Brother visited Bread Loaf on this date in 1934?

Events

Madrigalists
5:00, Barn

Jonathan Strong Reading
7:30, Barn

Reception Afterwards,
Tremen

Dinner

Maple-thyme-balsamic grilled chicken with mashed potatoes or mac and cheese with jalapenos, corn, roasted peppers, and sage; sugar snap peas; sponge cake with blueberries for dessert.

Weather

Today:
Thunderstorms,
86/66.

Tomorrow:
Isolated storms,
88/67.

Wednesday:
Scattered storms,
89/68.

Strong Turnout Anticipated for Strong Reading

The first of the summer's three faculty readings takes place tonight at 7:30 in the Barn, when longtime Bread Loaf faculty member Jonathan Strong will read some excerpts from his fiction and a personal essay. Jonathan has been hailed as a writer who can "keenly conjure power and resonance from straightforward, uncluttered language" (*Library Journal*) and whose stories resonate with "the immediacy, charm, and believability of a long letter from an old and good friend" (*New York Times*). His novels and story collections include *The Old World*, *An Untold Tale*, *Secret Words*, *A Circle Around Her*, and *Offspring*. Everyone is enthusiastically invited to the reading and to a reception at Treman afterwards.

Dead Man's Cell: This Play Ruhl's!

Tomorrow night at 7:30 the Bread Loaf Acting Ensemble, under the direction of Ben Steinfeld, will present a staged reading of Sarah Ruhl's *Dead Man's Cell Phone*, currently wowing Washington audiences in its world-premiere run at Woolly Mammoth Theatre Company in Washington. When the deceased Gordon's (Stephen Thorne) phone rings in a diner and Jean (Angela Brazil), the stranger at the next table, answers it, she unwittingly finds herself immersed in his former existence and pressed by Gordon's family, who believe Jean to be Gordon's close friend, for consolatory stories about their departed relative. (What kind of special effects wizardry the Theatre staff has employed to make an actual cell phone ring up here remains a closely guarded trade secret.)

The *Washington Post* calls the play an "oddball comedy" and Ruhl a playwright for whom "satire is her oxygen" and a "keen observer of social custom [with] a thing for the rituals constructed around death and dying, the ways in which we fear, mythologize and romanticize it." Ruhl was a Pulitzer Prize finalist in 2005 for her play *The Clean House* and the recipient of a MacArthur Fellowship in 2006.

Rude Awakenings and Food Fights

A deplorable decline in the standards of etiquette at Bread Loaf will bring Emily Post to campus later this summer to upbraid the student body about two lamentable trends: the rise in loud and distracting porch conversations late at night and repeated attempts by off-campus residents to eat in the Dining Hall without having paid for their meals at the Front Desk.

The lectureship is tentatively being called the "(to be announced) Memorial Tongue-Lashing," with the space before "Memorial" to be filled with the name of whichever noisemaker or meal-cheat is first strangled by an irate and sleepless hallmate or stabbed with forks by the Waitstaff in a reenactment of the third act of *Julius Caesar*.

Middlebury Makes a Little Night Music

The 29th Middlebury Festival on the Green, a perennial Vermont Chamber of Commerce "Top Ten Summer Event," kicked off last night and continues all week long downtown. Features include daily family entertainment at lunchtime, a pair of concerts nightly under the big tent, and Saturday's Street Dance with the Vermont Jazz Ensemble. For a complete schedule, go to festivalonthe.green.org.

M.Litt.-y Bartels Gives You Third Degree

If you're pursuing an M.Litt. or thinking about pursuing one, please attend an informational meeting with Her Exalted Perspicaciousness Emily Bartels in the Throne Room (formerly the Blue Parlor) tomorrow at 5. Emily will answer any questions you have about the program, but not wanting to waste time on truly useless queries, she reminds Bread Loafers that the M.Litt. is the degree beyond the M.A. and should not be confused with the honorary "M.Lite" degree occasionally bestowed by the residents of Gilmore upon one who has made exceptional contributions to the transport and tapping of kegs of Miller Lite®.

Old Coffeehouse Now Site of Star Balks

Would-be performers at Friday's Coffeehouse have not yet responded to the gentle encouragement offered in previous *Crumbs* to sign up. So let's lay it on the line. If Susanne Wofford detects that there's the tiniest amount of open space available on Friday night, she's going to turn to the crowd, say "Well, if you insist..." despite the fact that we did no such thing, then prove once again that she can recite from memory all 108 sonnets and 11 songs of Spenser's *Astrophel and Stella*. For the sake of everyone who'd like the Coffeehouse to finish before 2:15 a.m., therefore, get to the Dining Hall bulletin board and sign up to perform something – anything – on Friday night.

Remember that the Coffeehouse traditionally features two types of acts: **talent** (for example, musical performances) and **"talent"** (for example, catching in one's mouth grapes hurled from impressive distances, delivering Hamlet's "O what a rogue and peasant slave am I!" soliloquy entirely in charades, or juggling the three volumes of Lawrance Thompson's biography of Frost). Both types of performance are earnestly sought.

CD's Actually Involve Tremendous Risk

If you'd like to help DJ this Saturday's dance by volunteering your services for an hour or so, you'd better come equipped with your own music library, since Bread Loaf's dated collection of compact discs skews markedly towards lamentable mid-90's pop and is not to be relied upon to satisfy the rhythmic demands of today's Barn dancers. Please volunteer only if your tastes run toward music Bread Loafers would consider danceable; the crowd will not appreciate "YanniThon '07," "Soft Rock Saturday Night," or "Polka Jamzz."

Talk to Jen, Eric, or Christie if you can help out. Perks abound: not only do you get paid to DJ, but your drinks are free! (Don't tell anyone – they'll just get jealous.)

Feeling the Sufferings of Job?

It is virtually impossible to land a teaching position at an independent school without having made the institution aware of your existence. Ready to come to your aid in your job search by broadcasting your interest and qualifications to schools across the country and around the world is Carney, Sandoe & Associates, America's leading independent school job placement agency. A representative will visit Bread Loaf on July 16; if you'd like to consult with him or her about how CSA can help you, sign up for an appointment time on the Office board.

Weekend Events Good for the Sol, a Blast

Two big local events are on tap this weekend. In Tinmouth (about an hour from Bread Loaf), the 13th annual SolarFest celebrates renewable energy and works to achieve a sustainable future. Bill McKibben will deliver a keynote address on Saturday, and Bread Loaf has kindly lent out our own John Elder to deliver a keynote address of his own on Sunday. Musical performances, food, and crafts add to the appeal. Thanks to former *Crumb* Editor Hugh Coyle for bringing SolarFest to Bread Loaf's attention (he's on the board of trustees and hosting a songwriting competition there). More info at www.solarfest.org.

In Middlebury, the ever-popular Brick Blast LEGO® festival will be held on Saturday and Sunday at the American Legion Hall. The show includes displays as well as the chance to build your own creations. Admission is \$5 for adults and \$3 for children. Anyone who loves LEGO® will have a great time; anyone who doesn't love LEGO® is wrong.

Christie Hasn't Senior Forms

If you haven't returned your graduation regalia form to Christie or one of the other Director's Assistants yet, please do so soon. Otherwise, the Assistants, rendered irritable by a summer of audio-visual mishaps and exploding bottles of club soda, are likely to take liberties when reporting your height and cap size to the regalia company – so don't blame them when you show up at Commencement draped in what appears to be a six-person tent and sporting a tiny cap more suited to Graduation Day Barbie®'s head than to your melon.

Scavenger Hunt Teams Had to Go to Cleveland

After compiling the results of Friday's Scavenger Hunt, Will Cleveland reported that it "was a smashing success. Although only three teams competed, it is widely accepted throughout the lands that the Boys of Barn East Annual Scavenger Hunt is an official Bread Loaf tradition. Barn East alums and future alums are already planning next year's event. The official victory went to team Giggles, Jiggles, Wiggles, and Stew... but in truth, everyone was a winner. As far as the best name sub-competition, that honor went to the Disciples of Barn East. Fun was had, pictures were taken, lives were changed."

Trivia Teams Stay Sharp Over Academic Year

Bread Loaf students typically descend upon Wednesday's Trivia Nights at Two Brothers Tavern with the same spirit of friendly competition exhibited by the Visigoths when they dropped in on the Romans in 410. Having spent every spare moment from August to June boning up on subjects from Abyssinia to zoology, they're ready to joust with other teams for the privilege of being known far and wide as the supreme repository of useless knowledge.

For \$2 a head, your team of up to four can join in the fray – two rounds of fifteen general-knowledge questions, with the pot going to the winner and the Cheese Pizza of Shame to the least incompetent loser (or "second-place team," as some softies like to call them). The contest starts at 8:30, but seats at the bar disappear well before that.

One Good Tourney Deserves Another

Undaunted by drizzly conditions and the lingering effects of the Retro Dance, a record 15 golfers teed it up yesterday morning in the (we think) 7th (usually) Annual Bread Loaf Scramble. The team of John Ewertz, Eric Eye, Matt Rymzo and Mike Kennedy emerged victorious with a Scramble-record 6-under par score of 65, but it was Jeffrey Shoulson who took shot-of-the-day honors by putting his tee shot within 2' 1" on the par-3 14th hole. (If Professor Shoulson spent this morning's entire "Milton and Biblical Literature" class time recounting in excruciating detail the hushed scene on the tee, the soaring flight of the Titleist, and the dramatic birdie putt that followed, then the *Crumb* apologizes to his students for the old news here.)

The attention of the compulsive fan of Bread Loaf sports (and that's not a generalized term; there's really only one such person) turns next to Wimbledon. Draws have been posted outside the Dining Hall; men's singles players should find their opponents and schedule their first matches as soon as possible so that we can finish the tournament by summer's end and watch the winners make the traditional clay angels in the court surface.

Five BestOED Correct Answer on *Crumb* Bum

Carrie Jewell, Marty McMahon, Joane Tranchemontagne, the Christerical Duo, and Melinda Merriam knew that the first edition of the Oxford English Dictionary was the gigantic literary undertaking completed on April 19, 1928. It's not yet clear whether today's question will elicit more correct answers than usual (since the limited number of possible answers improves your odds) or fewer (since who knows how many Bread Loafers think that "Karl Marx" would be a plausible answer). Check the headlines for a clue, then get your answer to Jon Freeman by 10 tomorrow morning.

This is So Last Week

A suspicious delay in the delivery of an e-mail (I don't buy Will's explanation that his message got sent back to him because he forgot that the price of a stamp went up last month) prevented the *Crumb* from printing worthy submissions from the Boys of Barn East and the Waitstaff in last week's list of the **Top Ten Ways of Dealing with That Classmate Who Won't Shut Up**. Still, the *Crumb* is nothing if not forgiving, so please also consider the following:

From the Boys of Barn East:

- Dress as their conscience for Suppressed Desires. Whisper in their ear to shut up.
- Tell them, "People came for the giraffe, not for you."
- "They say shut up/ I say shut up."

From the Waitstaff:

- Make them wear a scarlet V for "verbose."
- Riverside Chaucer to the dome.

Now to this week's category. In an exposé that Jim Maddox would undoubtedly suppress if he weren't right now in Santa Fe asking whether there are *other* flavors of margaritas besides the eleven he's tried already, Friday's *Crumb* will publish the list of the **Top Ten Little-Known Clauses Appearing in Individual Professors' Contracts**. Some of these are concessions Bread Loaf grants grudgingly to august scholars who enhance the reputation of the School sufficiently to justify thus salving their enormous egos; others are stipulations Jim inserts to avoid legal entanglements, damaging stories in the gossip pages of *American Quarterly*, or compromising photographs in *PMLA*'s annual swimsuit issue. Dish whatever dirt you have by 10 a.m. on Friday to see it included in that day's *Crumb*.

Crumbelievable!!!

The Daily Supermarket Tabloid of the Bread Loaf School of English

Volume 88, Number 11

Tuesday, July 10, 2007

Trivia

Which author was expelled from the military when he appeared for a march in the required white belt and white gloves – and nothing else?

Events

M.Litt. Meeting
5:00, Blue Parlor

Power Yoga
5:00, Barn 1

Dead Man's Cell Phone
7:30, Theatre

Soccer
7:30, Field

Dinner

Corn and cod fricassee or vegetable strudel with sage; potatoes; cherry pie for dessert.

Weather

Today:
Scattered storms, 86/69.

Tomorrow:
PM thunder, 86/61.

Thursday:
Clouds turning to sun, 78/57.

DEAD MAN IN THEATRE: HUNDREDS GATHER TO LEARN MORE

The impressive corps of Bread Loaf actors will include an impressive corpse tonight when they, under the direction of Ben Steinfeld, present a staged reading of Sarah Ruhl's new and already immensely successful play *Dead Man's Cell Phone* at 7:30 in the Little Theatre. Currently in a repeatedly extended run at Washington's Woolly Mammoth Theatre Company, *Dead Man's Cell Phone* is part-screwball comedy, part-serious exploration of the ways we remember – or tailor to suit our purposes and others' needs – the lives of the departed. Tonight's cast features Stephen Thorne (who does more than just play dead), Angela Brazil, Morgan Dover-Pearl, and Cindy Rosenthal. Everyone is encouraged to attend.

Sarah Ruhl's plays include *The Clean House* (Pulitzer Prize finalist, 2005; Susan Smith Blackburn Prize, 2004), *Passion Play* (Helen Hayes Awards nomination for best new play), *Eurydice*, *Orlando*, and *Late*. She received the Helen Merrill Emerging Playwrights Award and the Whiting Writers' Award in 2003 and recently won a MacArthur Fellowship. Tonight's reading is free, as if you needed any more incentive to go.

Do You Have a Problem? Tell-Tale Signs You Might Need an M.Litt.

Do you recognize the following symptoms in yourself or in someone you know?

- Abnormal attachment to Bread Loaf
- Inability to remember what "home" looks like in the summertime
- Difficulty ceasing graduate studies
- Willingness or even eagerness to write papers longer than the stipulated minimum

If so, then you or your friend may possess a serious addiction problem and should enroll in what Bread Loaf calls the "M.Litt. program." Emily Bartels will be in the Blue Parlor today at 5 to meet with prospective and current M.Litt. students, where she will answer your questions. Remember: Admitting that you want another Bread Loaf degree is the first step towards getting that other Bread Loaf degree. We're here to help.

Britney, Ashlee, Clay, Fantasia, Mariah: CELEBRITIES GET DUMPED!!

Some of music's biggest stars – Britney Spears, Ashlee Simpson, Clay Aiken, Fantasia Barrino, Mariah Carey – now have something in common besides outsized egos and obscene financial reappings: They've all been rejected by dancers at Bread Loaf, who say they'd prefer good music – disco and dance and hip-hop – for Saturday's Barn dance. If you think your music collection would get the Barn bouncing, you're invited to DJ for an hour or two. Talk to a Director's Assistant if you're interested in the job, which pays well.

Kalli in Vegas with Stranger?

Don't be fooled by Front Desk staffer Kalli Federhofer's placid demeanor – because beneath it, he's a raging party animal who's headed to Vegas this week for the Dionysian revelry of the College Board convention.

Kalli would like to touch base with you if you're also going to the convention – or if you told your employer that of course you're going to the convention, that's why they're paying for your flight and hotel room, wouldn't dream of missing any of the sessions, didn't even know there was anything to do after hours...

Use Hypnosis to Land That Dream Job!

It's true – many candidates have gotten job offers just because they lured unsuspecting administrators into the suggestible state of a waking trance! (I'm serious. Think of your colleagues and tell me there isn't one incompetent whose continued employment isn't more easily explained by this theory than by any logical sequence of events.)

If hypnotizing the Dean of Faculty or the superintendent doesn't work, why not make an appointment to meet with a Carney, Sandoe & Associates representative on July 16th? As America's largest placement agency for independent schools, CSA can help you find that perfect position. The signup sheet is outside the Office.

Doctor Agrees: These People Have ESP!!

"I've never seen anything like it," said Dr. Ben Freedman, whose medical credentials seemed suspect but were vouched for by his "assistant," Miriam. Four people – Melinda Merriam, Kurt Brodersen, Liz Bedell, Christie Beveridge – knew that it was Harpo Marx who came to Bread Loaf in 1934 *even though none of them were born at the time of his visit*. Given their amazing powers of clairvoyance, you might consult one of the four when you're trying to decide which of two paper topics your professor would enjoy more and which would make him or her visibly cringe while reading the finished work.

Exclusive: Regis to Host Coffeehouse

We're being forced to import talent for Friday's Coffeehouse unless more acts sign up, and if the prospect of Regis Philbin performing in the Barn (precisely what his talent is remains unclear) isn't incentive enough to sign up, I don't know what is. We're up to five acts, thanks to Oliver Lewis, who agreed to regale the crowd with his best jokes (the best clean ones, that is) – but the more, the merrier. Sign up outside the Dining Hall.

Amazing "Human Pretzel" Owes Flexibility to Bread Loaf Yoga Class

They don't call it "Power Yoga" for nothing. Kate McKenna will help you get stretched, exercised, and refreshed in Barn 1 today from 5-6. The class is suitable for yoga enthusiasts of all levels.

Students Play 90-Minute Game of Soccer – Without Using Their Hands!!

What's more remarkable, the participants claim, is that anyone can do it! You would think that such restraint would only come after years of practice and the attainment of a Zen-like recognition of which limbs are and are not truly necessary, but apparently everyone's invited to play soccer at 7:30 tonight in the field.

\$\$ Found on Table: Owner Mysteriously GONE!

Imagine Tamar Paull's surprise when she sat down in the Barn yesterday afternoon for some quiet study time – and found \$8 lying on one of the tables, with no one in sight to whom it might belong! "At first I assumed that whoever it was had to have been abducted by a UFO, but then I remembered that their tractor beams only work when the victim's in an open field or other remote area. Even with their advanced technology, they can't penetrate actual buildings," Paull said before asking if her comments were on the record and promptly clamping up.

The *Crumb* Bum, consulted shortly after the mysterious abandoned money was discovered, briefly contemplated laying claim to the funds but then yielded to his pesky conscience and proclaimed himself stumped. Tamar is offering an \$8 reward to the rightful owner should he or she reappear.

Exclusive TomKat News

Please tell me you didn't see that headline and turn voraciously to these words hoping for the latest on little Suri Cruise. You're a graduate student in English. You're better than that.

Anyway, a tomcat (actually a very friendly female feline) has been spotted meandering around the back of the Inn recently. It's not wearing tags or a collar so if you know anything about its provenance or might be willing to give it a good home, talk to Emily Bartels, Lucy Maddox, or the Front Desk.

Victoria Brown Is AT HER WITS' END!!!!

OK, she's not quite that far gone, but she would like to know how many people to expect for the Commencement Banquet. If you're a senior, tell her how many guests you'll be bringing – even a rough estimate is fine if that's the best you can do for now.

Read Faculty Books and Lose 10 Pounds!

Disclaimer: The above headline is intended only to inform students that books by Michael Armstrong, David Huddle, Patricia Powell, Robert Stepto, and other professors are now available in the Bookstore; to encourage students to buy those professors' books; and to maintain a healthy lifestyle. No causal relationship between book-reading and weight loss is implied. Reading books while running twelve miles on treadmill daily may facilitate weight loss, but effects thereof are not result of reading books written by faculty members or by anyone else. Reading while on treadmill increases risk of becoming distracted by elegant prose or verse, then falling off treadmill, risking mockery at hands of others. Reading while running and not on treadmill not recommended, as both eyes required for timely spotting of potential road hazards (curb, lamppost, moose, etc.).

Professor Arrested in Syrup Sting

The *Crumb*'s team of investigative reporters has unearthed the shocking news that Professor John Elder was arrested last month on charges of running an illegal maple syrup distillery. Elder, whose Grade A Medium Amber has sweetened the flapjacks of many a Bread Loafer over the years, stands accused of manufacturing and selling street-ready "Grade A+++ Extra Fancy" syrup, a significantly more potent blend than the highest legal grade, Vermont Fancy.

Addicts will pay as much as \$300 for a pint of Grade A+++ Extra Fancy (or "sweet," as dealers sometimes term it), which is coveted for its remarkably light-amber hue and for the radiant sugar high it induces. It is ingested in liquid form, often on pancakes or ice cream, although junkies have been known to swig it straight from the bottle.

"We used to see this kind of thing in Burlington, maybe Montpelier," said Vermont DEA branch supervisor Ed Polk, "but it's in the small towns now. Parents should check if their kids are buying a lot of Bisquick, or coming home with sticky fingers – those are the warning signs."

Director Jim Maddox says that Elder's contract now stipulates that Bread Loaf will not tolerate such illegal activities. If you know of any other **Top Ten Little-Known Clauses Appearing in Individual Professors' Contracts**, send them to the *Crumb* by Friday morning.

His Image Sullied, Old Piney Turns to Crime

When Joseph Battell published *Ellen* in 1901, he took great pains to depict Old Piney as a caring tutor who took only a professional interest in the moral and intellectual improvement of a virginal young lass. Today, however, his motives have been thoroughly discredited by the Gilmore scholars, who bring forth weekly evidence that his apparent kind words invariably contain double meanings of a libidinous nature. With sales of *Ellen* in free-fall amid this scandal, Piney, finding himself deprived of the once-steady stream of royalties, has apparently broken under the pressure and turned to a life of crime. Read on!

Robber disguised as tree hits N.H. bank Associated Press
MANCHESTER, N.H. - Leaf it to New Hampshire, where a bank branch was held up by a man disguised as a tree. Just as the Citizen Bank branch opened Saturday morning, a man walked in with leafy boughs duct-taped to his head and torso, and robbed the place.

"He really went out on a limb," police Sgt. Ernie Goodno said Sunday.

Police said the leafy man didn't say anything about having a weapon, just demanded cash, and was given an undisclosed amount.

Although the branches and leaves obscured much of the man's face, someone who saw images from the bank's security camera recognized the robber and called police.

Officers said James Coldwell, 49, was arrested early Sunday at his Manchester home and charged with robbery. Arraignment was not expected until Monday.

The Crumb

The Daily Bulletin of the Bread Loaf School of English

Volume 88, Number 12

Wednesday, July 11, 2007

Trivia

Which author died from peritonitis after ingesting an hors d'oeuvre – and the toothpick on which it had been served?

Events

Director's Reception

5:00, West Lawn

Power Yoga

5:00, Barn 1

Trivia Night

8:30, Two Brothers

Dinner

Creole roast pork with sour orange and toasted garlic sauce or sweet potato polenta with artichokes and feta; collard greens; couscous with toasted almonds; peach cobbler.

Weather

Today:

Scattered storms, 81/60.

Tomorrow:

Partly cloudy, 79/56.

Weekend:

Chance of rain, around 80.

Some Return Over Andover Andover...

Please welcome to the mountain the 25 members of this year's Andover Bread Loaf Writing Workshop, led by Bread Loaf alum and current Phillips Academy (Andover) faculty member Lou Bernieri. They arrive tomorrow for their annual two-day visit; tomorrow at 7 in Barn 1, they'll talk about ABL's work in New Orleans, Oakland, Lawrence, and Mumbai. Everyone is welcome.

We Serve Wines Per Guests' Requests

You can enjoy a Chardonnay, a Shiraz, or a Cabernet (or a soda, an Otter Creek, or another libation) at today's Director's Reception if you're one of the fortunate fifth of the student body who received invitations in their boxes this week. We'll be on the West Lawn if the weather's nice, the Inn porch if it's naughty.

Downtown Smackdown

Tonight is the summer's first Two Brothers Tavern trivia contest – a two-round, no-holds-barred Ultimate Fighting Championship for the mind. Many Bread Loaf students, frustrated over not finding a way to work their comprehensive knowledge of obscure Vice Presidents, the primary exports of Chile, or *Mister Rogers' Neighborhood* into any of their papers, see Trivia Night as a welcome diversion. The entry fee is \$2 a head, maximum team size is four, and the whole shebang kicks off at 8:30.

First-Floor Typists: Take Flight

Let's say you're in the Library and realize that you need to check your e-mail. Two options immediately present themselves:

1. Use the first-floor computers, blithely dismissing the reminders, pasted in plain sight on those machines, not to do exactly that. Decide that those signs couldn't apply to *you*. Disturb everyone in the vicinity. Drive irritated Waitstaff members to contemplate unspeakable things to do to your plates of food.
2. Come upstairs, where the clatter of keyboards reminds us of the soothing patter of a gentle summer shower on the roof. Up here we have a nice little club of regulars – Spanky, Babs, Tank, Pokey, Noodles, Scooter, Mr. Big X (bet you can't guess which one is Michael Armstrong) and the rest. Up here you'll find a fully stocked bar behind a seldom-consulted shelf of Restoration poetry. Up here you might even lock eyes with someone special and end up a member of the "Not-Quite-A-Mile-High Club." It's not just the place to type – it's the place to *be*.

DJ's Receive Record Payments

Bread Loaf DJ's get to blast their favorite songs. They get to see their taste validated when the crowd storms the floor to the beat of their latest selection. And they get paid in the process. Despite all of these inducements, only "MC Kenna" (known outside the club scene as "Kate") has offered to provide tunes for Saturday's Barn Dance. If you'd like to DJ – and if you think your laptop or iPod or CD collection has the stuff of greatness in it, because our CD collection definitely does not – talk to a Director's Assistant.

First Tex Message I've Gotten Here

My sources tell me that Tex Tourais and Katie Baroski have volunteered to host Friday's Coffeehouse. Unless my sources were just trying to play a practical joke on Katie and Tex, those two will be the ones introducing acts musical, humorous, and of a yet-to-be-determined nature beginning at 8:30 in the Barn. Coffee and cookies provided in abundance. There's still plenty of time to sign up if a dormant talent suddenly reawakes and demands to be heard, seen, felt, or otherwise experienced.

The Naked Truth

Kurt Broderson, Melinda Merriam, Alex Levin, and Jennifer McDaniel spotted the "Tell-Tale" clue in one of yesterday's headlines and correctly surmised that it was Edgar Allan Poe who got himself expelled from West Point by showing up for a parade in the required "white gloves and belt" but declining to sport any additional articles of clothing.

Christie Beveridge has *already* answered today's trivia question correctly. No surprise, because each Wednesday the Director's Assistants remind each other of this author's demise in their pre-reception team meeting and pep talk. Not on their watch, they vow, will anyone fall victim, as this author did, to the multifarious dangers of a Director's Reception – and so they remain vigilant for the first signs of a toothpick impalement, blue-rope burn, or potentially fatal shortage of bacon-wrapped scallops.

'Tis Meet to Meet

First-year students who have not yet scheduled a time to meet with Emily (before she heads off to Oxford) or Jim (after he returns from Asheville) should do so ASAP. Pretty soon, the summer will be almost over, and Jim or Emily won't be able to do much about the mean kid who cuts in front of you in the blueberry line at breakfast, gives you Purple Nurples in class when the teacher isn't looking, and insists on calling your poststructuralist critical perspectives "poo-structuralist."

Kalli Sure Would Enjoy Vegas Company

Kalli Federhofer is heading to Vegas tomorrow to present at the College Board's annual conference. If you're planning to attend as well, he'd like to touch base with you. You can find him at the Front Desk, of course.

Best Design Captures Summer in Its Entire T

Congratulations to Chris North, the general technician on the theatre crew, whose design will grace the 2007 BLSE T-shirt. You can see the winning entry outside the Dining Hall; information about ordering your own is coming soon.

Harping on Harpo

Yesterday's *Crumb* verified that it was indeed Harpo Marx who visited Bread Loaf in July 1934 – but the larger question that has been gnawing at many a Loafer is *What on earth was he doing here??* Given that Harpo never spoke in any of his film roles but communicated primarily by horn, could he have come to instruct an earlier generation of Acting Workshop students in the art of nonverbal communication? Could he have been invited to deliver the first and only Monday night Barn *honking*? Could he have been scouting locations where he and his brothers might film the madcap comedy *A Night at the Graduate Program in English*? If you can provide the actual answer – or any answer, as the *Crumb* has never been a stickler for veracity – drop Jon a line.

Arms and Demands I Sing

Van Halen famously ordered the removal of all brown M&M candies from their backstage spread. The Dixie Chicks require stargazers, Casablanca lilies, irises, gladiolas, and eucalyptus delivered to their dressing rooms *in paper*, not already arranged; that's their personal floral designer's job. Sammy Hagar must have his celery trimmed, not peeled. John Mayer needs kids' breakfast cereal and four soft-bristled toothbrushes, Matchbox 20 two boxes of unscented Kleenex, Bloodhound Gang a "fridge magnet of local interest."

I suppose it was inevitable that Bread Loaf professors, seeing themselves as "rock stars of the academic world," would begin making similar contractual demands. All summer long, they keep the Director's Assistants scurrying hither and yon for organic passion-fruit sorbet, pashmina stoles, and the phone numbers of local escort services. At the same time, Jim attempts to curb each professor's more outrageous proclivities by including detailed codes of conduct in their letters of appointment. The result is a whole mess of stipulations on both sides, the best of which will be revealed in Friday's list of the **Top Ten Little-Known Clauses Appearing in Individual Professors' Contracts**. Your findings are due to the *Crumb* by 10 that morning.

The Crumb

The Daily Bulletin of the Bread Loaf School of English

Volume 88, Number 13

Thursday, July 12, 2007

Trivia

Which writer accidentally started a 300-acre forest fire while on a fishing trip in 1844?

Events

Bread Loaf Andover Presentations
7-8:30, Barn 1

Soccer
7:30, Field

Gilmore
9:00

Dinner

Grilled tuna ratatouille with fresh garden herbs or wild mushroom ravioli with carrot orange sauce; saffron pilaf; yellow cake with chocolate frosting.

Weather

Today:
Partly cloudy,
79/56.

Tomorrow:
Scattered
storms, 76/55.

Weekend:
Some rain,
highs near 80.

Guests Experience Life in the Woods

Today begins the annual visit of the participants in the Bread Loaf Andover Writing Workshop. They'll be on campus for two days of meetings and conversations, including a presentation tonight in Barn 1 at 7 on BLA's work in Lawrence, New Orleans, Oakland, and Mumbai. Everyone is invited to hear about the exciting programs BLA has undertaken around the globe.

Get Enlightened at SolarFest

SolarFest, the 13th annual celebration of world music and global energy for a sustainable future, comes to Tinnmouth this weekend for two days of entertainment and enlightenment. You'll also find food and crafts, workshops and presentations on strategies for leading an environmentally-friendly lifestyle, songwriting competitions, and guest speakers, including Bill McKibben on Saturday and Bread Loaf faculty member John Elder on Sunday afternoon. Tickets are \$25 for the whole weekend (\$20 for Saturday only and \$15 for Sunday only), and children under 13 are free. Tinnmouth is a little more than an hour's drive from Bread Loaf.

Let Us LEGO Then, You and I

Bread Loafers of all pedagogical stripes will become constructivist thinkers this weekend, when they'll flock to Middlebury's American Legion Hall for the annual Brick Blast LEGO® Festival. Admission is \$5 for adults and \$3 for children. You'll get to see impressive design and engineering feats, and you'll have the chance to do some building of your own, although remember that calling yourself a "structuralist critic" doesn't entitle you to point out a rocket ship's egregious flaws to its teary six-year-old architect.

Choose to Pour Over Books Friday

Why spend Friday night in the Library when you have the Coffeehouse (tomorrow, 8:30, Barn) beckoning? You'll be treated to great live music and other impressive and hilarious displays of the best talent the Mountain has to offer. It's much better stuff than you'd hear at Starbucks, where you'd suffer through whatever new CD they're tirelessly shilling or some warmed-over compilation of seventeen tired classics. We'll give you free flavored coffee and biscotti while you enjoy the show, too.

Your hosts, Katie Baroski and Tex Tourais, won't steam milk but instead will whip the crowd into a pleasant froth of anticipation for the evening's entertainment.

DJ Interest Quiet; Desperation Sets In

A few people have offered to help DJ this Saturday's dance, but we'll need some more folks to step up to guarantee four full hours of Barn beats. Talk to a Director's Assistant if you can help; you'll get paid for your work, and grasping the technical basics of the job is mercifully simple, even for a literary mind.

Those of you who'd rather be out on the floor than behind the mixing board shouldn't fear a shortage of music – if worst comes to worst, we'll just put on one of our mid-90's "MTV Party to Go" CD's after another and pretend that we're just extending the Retro Dance into the Clinton era.

The Gift of the Maggie

Little Springfield, Vermont, 9,500 residents strong, beat out 13 other Springfields across the nation for the right to host the July 21 premiere of the Simpsons' feature film. You'll probably have to wait until the July 27 nationwide release to see it yourself, though; given the enormous cast the show has utilized over its nineteen seasons, most of the premiere tickets are already in the two-dimensional hands of animated characters, leaving precious few for distribution among actual human beings.

This Definitely Bears Mentioning

You might want to take it nice and slow as you drive between Ripton and Bread Loaf. Multiple bear sightings, and in one case an actual collision between a car and a grown bear at full gallop, should make motorists cautious in the vicinity. And Kelli Reno writes in to inform "others who have been irrevocably traumatized by *Bambi*" that "in addition to the gleaming white Addison Co. sheriff's car hanging around just this side of Ripton village this morning, I also encountered a momma deer with her two little fawns (insert cute-inspired squealing "aw"s here...) standing in the road, just after the speed limit goes back up to 50 mph. Momma knew to get the heck out of the road, but the two little ones were a little clueless as to what to do... Watch out for them!"

Tell Us, O High, O Mighty Wise Ones

Certain Bread Loafers seem to get every single trivia question right, despite the fact that I never see them around. This could be because they've relinquished their corporeal housings to achieve a more transcendent and total communion with the ethereal planes (just like Obi-Wan Kenobi did!), or it could be because they're alums who read the *Crumb* online. I'm pulling for the Obi-Wan theory, though, because that would be wicked awesome.

Anyway, Roberta Harold, Kurt Broderson, Liz Bedell, Melinda Merriam, the Christerical Duo, and Bryan Bradbury pounced on yesterday's trivia question. It seems that the odd nature of Sherwood Anderson's death (peritonitis resulting from ingesting a toothpick) makes for a slam-dunk classroom anecdote for anyone teaching *Winesburg, Ohio*.

Blood Will Have Blood, They Say

Many of the faculty, enraged at the *Crumb*'s insinuations over the past couple of days that John Elder moonlights as a syrup bootlegger and that certain of their number patronize houses of ill repute, have added a midsummer rider to their contracts insisting that the *Crumb* Bum be submerged in a vat of Elder's best syrup, then lashed to an Adirondack chair and left to a bloodletting by the local insect, bird, and rodent populations.

Unbowed by this storm of protest, the *Crumb* pledges to soldier on and publish, as scheduled, its exposé of the **Top Ten Little-Known Clauses Appearing in Individual Professors' Contracts** in tomorrow's issue. Send your best ideas of what the professors require of Jim, or he of them, to Jon Freeman by 10 tomorrow morning, then check the *Crumb* at lunch for the final list.

GilmLore: Exile Island

Although Elaine and Jim vehemently deny that such a policy was ever in place, recently declassified documents indicate that in the 1970's the Bread Loaf administration assigned to Gilmore those students willing to pay full tuition but deemed unable to cut it intellectually. The remote location was chosen in the hopes that if the inhabitants ever attempted to find their classes, they would become irrevocably lost in the woods and eventually descend into a feral state, rendering them unlikely to mount legal action against the School and emptying the dormitory for the next summer's residents.

Fate, that impish harlot, intervened in Jim and Elaine's master plan, however. Under the impression that they were supposed to be studying literature but unable to locate the school itself, the intrepid Men of Gilmore began teaching themselves, close-reading the only text they could find in the building – a copy of *Ellen* that was being used as a doorstep – and soon developed a thorough knowledge of Battell's oeuvre. When their discussions over the significance of the pine tree turned heated, residents of Barn East and Larch heard the distant sound of those conversations and, curious, trekked through the woods to discover the existence of the one cream-and-green building Jim never wanted them to know about and its grievously mistreated denizens. Overcome with sympathy, they organized secret weekly supply runs, toting food and drink and the occasional interested professor up with them to nourish the Gilmore men in body and in mind, in return for which the residents introduced them to *Ellen*, the literary embarrassment Bread Loaf administrations had successfully covered up for decades. Treks to Gilmore are now pleasant diversions from a week's work, not charitable missions – although the residents remind everyone that a few bucks from everyone who visits tonight will defray the cost of the refreshments and help fund the continuing psychiatric care of those pioneer Gilmoreans, like Edward Brown, still retaining a touch of the wild and struggling to readjust to civilization.

The Crumb

The Daily Bulletin of the Bread Loaf School of English

Volume 88, Number 14

Friday, July 13, 2007

Trivia

Whose gender did the London Times get consistently wrong throughout a book review of his/her work?

Events

Friday:
Coffeehouse
8:30, Barn

Saturday:
Mt. Abe Hike
9:30, Inn Porch

Dance
9-1, Barn

Sunday:
Blue Parlor, 7:30
Sexual Orientation
Discussion
9:00, Blue Parlor

Dinner

Chicken
parmesan or pasta
with marinara
sauce; tossed
salads; flatbreads;
mixed berry
tiramisu.

Weather

Today:
Scattered
storms, 76/54.

Tomorrow:
Mostly sunny,
78/62.

Sunday:
Scattered
storms, 75/56.

The Crumb Piles It On

Oh, you thought that all you had to do was *read* the *Crumb*? Sorry – I should have mentioned at the beginning of the summer that there would be some required “assessments” along the way as well. Choose any three of the assignments below and turn them in to the *Crumb* offices by Monday morning at 7:30. If you’re thinking that today’s your unlucky day – well, it is Friday the 13th, you know.

Coffeehouse

Assignment: Attend tonight’s Coffeehouse, which begins at 8:30 in the Barn. Observe each act carefully and applaud enthusiastically. Using for inspiration the talents on display tonight, develop and execute one of the following creative final presentations: a) Odysseus’ slaughter of the suitors as a rhythmic gymnastics routine, b) an original folk song for voice and guitar about Derrida’s critique of phenomenology, or c) *Waiting for Godot* for kazoo duet.

Barn Dance

Assignment: While you gyrate and gesticulate in your own inimitable way to the music Brandon Abdon, Kate McKenna, Courtney Dow, and Jon Ewertz will play on Saturday night, listen closely to all lyrics. Then write a 4- to 6-page critical paper on one of the following topics:

1. The limited/de-limited, gendered, and/or sociopolitical nature of the “club” space in 50 Cent’s “In Da Club.”
2. Semiotics and the politics of “seeing” in Ace of Base’s lyric “I saw the Sign / and it opened up my eyes.”
3. Use and significance of phallic imagery in Yeats’ “Leda and the Swan” and Bloodhound Gang’s “The Bad Touch.”

David Huddle Reading

Assignment: In preparation for David Huddle’s Barn reading on Monday night, read all of his published work, including difficult-to-obtain galleys of *Glory River*, the volume of poetry due out in 2008. Commit entire oeuvre to memory. During reading, sit in conspicuous location. Gaze adoringly at Huddle, mouthing each word along with him as he reads. (Note: While you will not receive official credit for doing this, it seems likely to improve David’s opinion of you when the time comes to award final grades in Contemporary American Short Story or Poetry Writing.)

Blue Parlor Reading

Assignment: Attend Sunday night’s Blue Parlor reading. Hear Susan Godwin, Brandon Abdon, Michael Yeakey, Katie Bausler, and Merideth Garcia will read their original work starting at 7:30. Enjoy some sophisticated snacks. Applaud the readers’ accomplishments. Realize that the short story you have to write for Monday pales in comparison to their work. Despair. Then, in burst of inspiration, realize that all your problems with your story would be solved if you made the unicorn a *magic* unicorn.

Sexual Orientation Conversation

Assignment: Attend Sunday night’s discussion of issues of sexual orientation in education and in life in general (Blue Parlor, 9:00). Everyone is invited, and refreshments will be provided.

Then write a journal entry responding to the skinny-dipping scene or postulating why the canoe didn’t tip over, what with all the commotion going on inside. Wait – those are the study questions for the soft-core summer camp film “Sexy Orientation,” *not* the questions for Sunday’s Sexual Orientation Discussion Group. The *Crumb* apologizes.

SolarFest

Assignment: Travel to Tinmouth for this weekend’s SolarFest, a celebration of world music and global energy for a sustainable future. Sample great food, shop for crafts, attend workshops and presentations on sustainable living, and hear Bill McKibben speak on Saturday or John Elder on Sunday. Then, using the knowledge gained during your visit, prepare and present to Lucifer a PowerPoint demonstration of the environmental and financial benefits of converting the *Inferno* to solar-powered heat.

Brick Blast

Assignment: Attend this weekend’s Brick Blast LEGO® festival at the Middlebury American Legion Hall. From your study of the moon orbiter and other impressive structures on display there, construct scale models of any three of the mansions or houses from the texts in Isobel Armstrong’s Victorian fiction class.

Poetry Contest

Assignment: Enter the contest by submitting one or two poems, each a maximum of 40 lines, to Karen Browne in the Office by Monday at 5:00. \$1500 in prize money goes to the winner or winners of the contest, as decided by judges David Huddle and Lucy Maddox. Make sure your name does not appear on the poems themselves, but on an attached slip of paper. (This rule is in place because a few years back, a wily student signed his work “William Butler Yeats” and the starry-eyed judges awarded him first prize despite the fact that one poem spelled “Ireland” incorrectly and the other was about Big Bird.)

Mt. Abe Hike

Assignment: Quit loafing and climb a Green Mountain – Mt. Abraham (better known as “Mt. Abe” to locals like Bill McKibben, who fondly refers to an outing to the 4006 ft. summit and a view of the Champlain Valley and Adirondack Mountains to the west in his latest book, *Wandering Home*). Mount Abraham is the fifth tallest peak in Vermont. The hike is 5.2 miles and should take 3-5 hours. The trail is reportedly rugged but easy to follow. Be prepared for wind and rain, and bring plenty of water and bug repellent.

Meet at 9:30 a.m. Saturday on the Inn Porch. Hikers with cars are needed, as the trailhead is near the town of Lincoln, about 25 minutes’ drive from Bread Loaf.

Carney-Sandoe Interviews

Assignment: Sign up to meet with the representative from Carney, Sandoe & Associates on July 16. With their assistance, obtain a job at a prestigious independent school. Extra credit for convincing the prestigious independent school that it must also a) give you the Head of School's old office, b) hire a team of teaching assistants to grade your students' papers, or c) fund as "class preparation supplies" cases of bourbon purchased in attempt to see if achieving Faulknerian level of inebriation facilitates drawing up lesson plans for AP English unit on *As I Lay Dying*.

Used Books

Assignment: Purchase a well-annotated copy of a text of your choice in the Bookstore before all the used books are shipped back to campus on Wednesday. Compose 1500-word close-reading of the previous reader's marginalia, paying special attention to the meanings of odd abbreviations, the biographical or historical significance of "I ♥"-type jottings, and visual representations of central tropes masquerading as doodles.

Trivia Question

Assignment: Attempt to answer today's trivia question correctly, knowing that doing so means geniuses Aaron Snyder, Melinda Merriam, and Rachel Bradbury might invite you to sit at the smart kids' table at lunch. All of them knew it was Thoreau who once started a forest fire. Notice that no clue has been provided for today's question. Sulk. Regroup. Then think, dammit, *think!*

Charlie Orr Fun Run

Assignment: Plan to participate in the July 29th Charlie Orr Memorial 5K Run/Jog/Walk. If you anticipate finishing near the top, train intensely in the coming weeks. If you anticipate finishing at the back of the pack, present official Timekeeper and Modernism scholar Victor Luftig with a report of the race that borrows from Woolf's blurring of chronology in *Mrs. Dalloway* and has you crossing the finish line first. Hope Victor buys it and declares you the champion.

Animal Sightings

Assignment: Keep your eyes peeled for wildlife while you drive or walk in the vicinity. Using yesterday's sightings by Rachel Wortman (deer, then a moose) and Will Cleveland (two foxes, raccoon, deer, and two moose) as examples, invent poker-style rankings for such multiple-creature sightings. Explain whether three chipmunks beat two moose and if an entire family of deer counts as some kind of "straight flush."

Top Ten

Assignment: Read the list to the right. Choose one of the more potentially compromising items mandated by a particular professor. Obtain that actual item and offer it to professor. Videotape his or her reaction, then produce a) an iMovie if you feel the footage is best used for embarrassment, or b) a note made out of cut-out magazine letters if you feel the footage has blackmail potential.

Current Standings: Director's Assistants (DA) 15, Apple Seedlings (AS) 11, Inn Your Face (IYF) 11, Boys of Barn East (BOBE) 9, WarrenWights (WW) 5, Larch Porch (LP) 5, Exiles on Main Street (EMS) 5, Waitstaff (WS) 5, Oxford Assistants (OXA) 4, Michael Yeakey (MY) 3, Bloomfield Beauties (BB) 3, Jessica Horner (JH) 1.

Top T(w)en(ty-Two) Little-Known Clauses Appearing in Individual Professors' Contracts

22. David Huddle shall be given first rights to the tennis courts and a new can of balls every third day. (EMS)
21. Anyone registering for Margery Sokoloff's Literature of Survival must be a war veteran, a refugee, or an involuntary cannibal. (AS)
20. Despite his having secured NEA funding for advanced surveillance equipment, Dare Clubb is not permitted to have his playwriting students wiretap campus phones for dramatic "material." (IYF)
19. Bread Loaf guarantees that for Isobel Armstrong, the Middlebury river, rolling from its mountain-springs
With a soft inland murmur, shall connect
The landscape with the quiet of the sky
As it rolls past your class and all its dizzy raptures.
We shall provide a sense sublime
In every evening's light of setting suns,
And thunderstorms and the living air
Will wax sublime in time for papers due. (BB)
18. Will Nash allowed frequent "research trips" to Las Vegas, New York, and South Beach for Urban American Literature course. (DA)
17. Isobel Armstrong gets to fake an English accent. (BOBE)
16. Jonathan Freedman is granted a minimum of four (4) and a maximum of twenty-eight (28) cold, refreshing Diet Cokes per week to get him through his afternoon classes. (IYF)
15. Jeffrey Shoulson shalt not gloat over shot-of-the-day honors, even when thou accomplisheth thy tee shot within 2' 1" on the par-3 14th hole, or thou shalt suffer a painful back in recompense. (BB)
14. David Huddle arrives to find closet pre-stocked with full summer's worth of seersucker suits. (DA)
13. Jonathan Freedman will have all Internet blockers lifted so he can freely Google "scatological humor" and "grotesque body." (BB)
12. John Fyler gets the only paperback *Riverside Chaucer* this side of the Atlantic. (BOBE)
11. Sara Blair is no longer permitted to speed-type and power-walk at the same time, in light of last year's fatal collision. (IYF)
10. All faculty receive complimentary tickets to Rutland Demolition Derby. (DA)
9. Only John Elder may bend birches. (BOBE)
8. Towel boys hired to blot Emily's forehead at Barn dances. (DA)
7. Carol MacVey requires an in-house hypnotherapist to be made available during her acting classes, "in case we can't get someone back." (IYF)
6. Susanne Wofford gets her own Xerox machine. (WS)
5. Any professor with more than three years of service will be granted access to BreadNet's "Lusty Academics" folder. (EMS)
4. All maple syrup served in the cafeteria must either come from John Elder's farm or be labeled "tree sweat." (AS)
3. Victor Luftig and Suzanne Wofford demand each other's syllabi at least eight (8) weeks prior to the start of Bread Loaf, to ensure that they can each assign at least one more paper than the other. (IYF)
2. Each year, Susanne Wofford's return to Bread Loaf must be treated as an "Epic Homecoming," complete with heralds, balloons, and Satan. (AS)
1. After last summer's debacle (class-action suit pending), Jenny Green-Lewis may no longer conclude her course by bringing students to John's Pond, handing out pocket stones, and encouraging them to have "The Real Virginia Woolf Experience." (IYF)

The Crumb

The Daily Bulletin of the Bread Loaf School of English

Volume 88, Number 15

Monday, July 16, 2007

Trivia

Which writer hung a picture of his greatest literary enemy over his desk – for inspiration, he claimed?

Events

Carney-Sandoe Appointments

All day,
Blue Parlor

Poetry Contest Deadline

5:00, Office

Madrigalists

5:00, Barn

David Huddle

Reading
7:30, Barn

Reception

Treman,
following reading

Dinner

Medieval lentils with rice cakes and saffron yogurt or boiled brisket with potatoes, cabbage, and carrots; dessert's a surprise.

Weather

Today:

Partly cloudy,
79/57.

Tomorrow:

Mostly cloudy,
80/59.

Wednesday:

Isolated storms,
79/59.

Give Me Your Tired, Your Poor, Your Huddle Masses

Sure, we're all exhausted and impoverished (the teachers among us, at least), but nothing will deter the crowds from attending David Huddle's Barn reading tonight at 7:30. David's work ranges from short story collections (*The High Spirits*, *Only the Little Bone*, *Intimates*) to novels (*The Story of a Million Years*, *La Tour Dreams of the Wolf Girl*) to volumes of poetry (*Summer Lake*, *Grayscale*). David's forthcoming publications include a second edition of *Only the Little Bone* and a new collection of poems, *Glory River*, due out in spring 2008. This year, David promises "a little special surprise" for everyone, which makes his reading, always a cherished summer tradition, a must-attend event. Everyone is invited to Treman afterwards for a reception.

Last-Minute Poets Face Dead Lines

The deadline for submitting one or two poems to this year's Robert Haiduke Poetry Contest is 5:00 this afternoon. If you're finished or nearly finished with a masterpiece, make sure it gets to Karen Browne in the Office by then, and make sure you've put your name on a separate sheet of paper, not on the poems themselves. If you haven't written anything yet, the *Crumb* does not advise trying to throw something together between now and 5, despite the entreaties of the practical jokers at your lunch table who insist that it only took Keats a half hour to whip out that thing about the urn.

The Master Builder

Congratulations to Dylan Brown, who won first prize in his age group at this weekend's Brick Blast LEGO® festival in Middlebury. Given 20 minutes to construct something out of a gigantic pile of LEGO® blocks and contending against a horde of rapacious fellow competitors who used their grubby, grabby hands to claw for the choicest pieces, Dylan built a time machine the judges recognized as something Rodin might have created had he worked with the vibrant colored blocks instead of monochromatic and unwieldy bronze.

Check out the next *Addison County Independent* for a photo of Dylan's accomplishment. No word yet on whether the time machine is operational. (The *Crumb* Bum, for one, would like a re-do of his embarrassing question following Seamus Heaney's 2005 Drew Lecture, because he has since learned that it's pronounced "Shay-muss," not "Sea-Moose.")

Friday's Film One of R Favorites

The Director's Assistants inform me that this Friday's film, the Oscar®-nominated *Little Children*, is not appropriate for little children. This, they also inform me, is what we at the School of English refer to as "irony." (Please excuse this article's apparent ignorance of basic scholarly concepts and utter lack of humor. I'm just practicing for this fall, when I become an administrator.)

Seeking Hire Form of Existence?

The representative from Carney, Sandoe & Associates is visiting Bread Loaf today, so if you signed up for an appointment with him, remember to drop by. If you forget your meeting, then YOU MISSED YOUR CHANCE AND YOU'RE NEVER GOING TO GET A JOB BECAUSE WHO WOULD EVER WANT TO HIRE YOU? Wait – that was a joke! Please don't cry. Of course some school will want to have you as a teacher. Well, not the way you look right now, I mean, not with the tears streaming down your face and that constant, irritating snuffle, but – what? What'd I say? Come back!!!

Guest Reader Bellows Wednesday

Ralph Sneed and Nathaniel Bellows both graduated from Bread Loaf, then returned to serve as Director's Assistants way back when the *Crumb* Bum was but a callow first-year School of English student. From there they've gone on to carve out impressive literary careers, and this Wednesday they return to Bread Loaf to read from their work.

Ralph is the author of two volumes of poetry, *Off Little Misery Island* and *Evidence of the Journey*, and his work has appeared in *The New Republic*, *Slate*, *The Kenyon Review*, *Ploughshares*, and other publications. Nathaniel is the author of the novel *On This Day* and the collection of poems *Why Speak?*; his short story "First Four Measures" appeared in *The Best American Short Stories 2005*.

Jim Maddox likes to cite Ralph and Nathaniel's career arcs as evidence that *only* those Bread Loaf alums who return to work as Director's Assistants ever end up getting published; this, he insists, justifies the low wages and Dickensian conditions that come with the position. (I'm not kidding – Jen's off cleaning the Earthworm coal-scuttle, and Eric just asked me if I could spare a "farthing," whatever that is.)

'Tis Better to Give Than to Deceive

OK, first I was told there would be a senior meeting Wednesday at 5 to discuss a class gift. But now I hear there's no meeting. How about *this* idea for a class gift – accurate info for the *Crumb* Bum?

Quail or Quinoa for Queer Quorum?

Not sure what will be on the dinner menu tomorrow, but you'll definitely find an enjoyable, informal conversation going on at the table reserved for queer and queer-friendly students, faculty, and community members. Everyone is cordially invited.

Gallop Polls Show Race Warming Up

The Goshen Gallop, billed as "the toughest 10K in New England," starts from the Blueberry Hill Inn this Saturday at 4 p.m. The promotional material says that this year's race is number "XXVIX," which to decipher would require the combined efforts of lab technicians from the Meat Loaf School of Mathematics and an expert from the Foccacia School of Classical Languages (possibly Jay Panini). For info on how to register, grab a green flyer at the Front Desk.

Eyes on the Prizes

Jim Maddox returns from his tours of Santa Fe and Asheville tomorrow and will, at dinner on Wednesday, honor the student recipients of named scholarship funds and the faculty holders of endowed professorial chairs. You don't need to do anything special for dinner that night except show up and congratulate the worthy recipients of these honors.

Decline and Fall of Trivia Contest?

Only one person hazarded a guess – an incorrect one at that – for Friday's trivia question. Let's hope that this feeble response is merely an effect of there being no clue hidden in Friday's headlines and not a portent of something more sinister. If it's any help, I've hidden today's clue about as subtly as Polonius behind the arras.

So which writer's gender did the London *Times* consistently misidentify in a book review? Well, George Eliot it was not, as it would be hard to take the *Times* to task for assuming that this "George" was a "Mr." No, the correct answer was Evelyn Waugh, referred to as "Miss Waugh" throughout the *Times*' review of one of his works.

Nietzschean Superman

When crisis looms...when *all three* Apple Cellar printers run out of toner at the same time...when another student paper falls victim to the Obfuscator and his infernal Prose-Tangler...to whom do Bread Loafers turn for help? To our resident superhero, Loaf-Man, that's who! (Apologies for perpetuating the image of the masculine superhero; I had hoped for a bread-related female name, but Wonder® Woman was already taken.)

Armed with his master's degree, Loaf-Man saves the day by...by...well, let's leave it up to you to determine the **Top Ten Super Abilities of Bread Loaf's Resident Superhero, Loaf-Man**. Get your ideas to Jon Freeman by Friday morning; particularly super entries will appear in that day's list.

The Crumb

The Daily Bulletin of the Bread Loaf School of English

Volume 88, Number 16

Tuesday, July 17, 2007

Trivia

Which author began writing a novel at age 11, which was criticized by her mother because the opening scene mentioned an untidy drawing room when, her mother said, drawing rooms are never untidy?

Events

Power Yoga
5:00, Barn 1

Soccer
7:30, Field

The Axe in the Attic
7:30, Barn 1

Dinner

Penne pasta
Dewey with
marinara sauce
and chicken or
vegetables.
Dessert remains a
riddle wrapped in
a mystery inside
an enigma, but the
enigma may come
with blueberries
on top.

Weather

Today:
Partly cloudy,
83/60.

Tomorrow:
Thundershowers,
75/60.

Thursday:
Scattered storms,
81/59.

Table Talk

There will be a table reserved tonight at dinner for queer and queer-friendly members of the community to gather and continue the productive Sunday Blue Parlor discussions about issues of sexual orientation in education and in life in general. Everyone is invited to join the group.

The Axe in the Attic

A day at Bread Loaf without a lecture, reading, or presentation from a world-renowned artist? That simply will not do. Tonight we're proud to welcome filmmakers Lucia Small and Ed Pincus, who will screen and discuss their brand-new documentary on the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina, *The Axe in the Attic*, at 7:30 in Barn 1.

Lucia and Ed's website calls *The Axe in the Attic* the result of the efforts of "two filmmakers drawn together by outrage." Much of the film takes place in the new trailer villages inhabited by Katrina evacuees; through interviews with the residents, "a story unfolds of an American Diaspora – the displaced struggling with loss of home, family, and culture. Emotions range from deep pain to surprising humor, as filmmakers and subjects tackle questions of race, class, and their government's failure to protect its own. The filmmakers trace the shattered, scattered lives of those dislocated by the storm and confront questions of home, loss, and displacement. Evacuees are in the throes of contending with their fate and plotting their futures, asking themselves: Can we go home again? Do we want to? How can we make a new life? Why has this happened to us? Who is responsible? The film raises questions about the role of the observer and the responsibilities incurred by filming people in stressful situations."

Ed is the recipient of a Guggenheim Fellowship and several NEA grants; his previous films include *Black Natchez*, *Panola*, and *Diaries: 1971-1976*. He is the author of the highly acclaimed *Guide to Filmmaking* and the co-author of *The Filmmaker's Handbook*. Lucia has been an independent filmmaker for 13 years, working as director, producer, camera operator, and assistant editor. She produced the PBS series *The Mississippi: River of Song* and directed *My Father*, *The Genius* (Grand Jury Prize, Best Documentary, Slamdance Film Festival) in addition to her many other noteworthy accomplishments.

The Axe in the Attic is nearly finished, but Ed and Lucia may still make changes, so they welcome your feedback tonight. Don't miss this chance to get a sneak peek at this powerful and important work.

The Acts in the Basement

Be forewarned that if you bring little children to *Little Children* (Friday, 9:00), you'll have to explain to them the scene that takes place in a basement laundry room. You could tell your darling that the reason Kate Winslet and Patrick Wilson aren't wearing any clothes in this scene is obviously because they're being washed. You may find yourself in dangerous waters if you try to explain why they do what they do while they're there (if you don't have a book or anything, it must get pretty boring waiting for the dryer to finish so you can get your clothes back!). But as far as advice on what to say when your kid asks why Winslet is sitting on the dryer and grabbing the overhead pipe and making those strange noises... there, you're on your own. Easier to leave the little ones at home and enjoy on your own this Oscar-nominated adaptation of Tom Perrotta's novel about thirtysomethings torn between youthful desires and parental obligations.

Pair of Loafers Found in Barn

You get two Barn readings for the price of none this week, as former Bread Loafers Ralph Sneed and Nathaniel ("Shuey") Bellows return to read from their work tomorrow at 7:30.

As David Huddle mentioned last night, both Ralph and Nathaniel have recently published volumes of poetry. Ralph's is entitled *Evidence of the Journey*; his work has appeared in *Poetry*, *The New Republic*, *Slate*, *The Kenyon Review*, and *Ploughshares*, and during the academic year he teaches at Phillips Exeter Academy in New Hampshire. Nathaniel's collection, *Why Speak?*, appeared earlier this year from Norton; he has also published a novel, *One More Day*, and written book reviews for *Publishers Weekly*, *The New York Times*, and the *Boston Globe*. His short story "First Four Measures" appeared in *The Best American Short Stories 2005*.

Gallop Orr Hills, Dales, Trails...

The Goshen Gallop, billed as "New England's toughest 10K race," will be run this Saturday at 4, beginning at the Blueberry Hill Inn. Registration info can be found on the flyers at the Front Desk and outside the Dining Hall. Apparently the passive voice will be used by the *Crumb* Bum in every sentence in this paragraph.

Next Saturday (the 28th), Bread Loaf will host the annual Charlie Orr 5K, possibly "New England's Most Enjoyable 5K race," as you can run, jog, or walk the course (which includes the Frost Trail) at your own pace and in the company of friends, family, and/or pets. Optional dip in John's Pond after the finish.

Happy Meal Comes with Prize

Tomorrow night's dinner is a regular sit-down meal, but afterwards Jim will preside over the annual announcement of named scholarship recipients and endowed faculty chairholders. You should neither feel jealous towards the winners, whose talents Jim will sing, or slight your own abilities should they go unrecognized. You see, at Bread Loaf named scholarships are not extra monetary awards; they merely attach names of donors or honorees to the funds already dispensed to students on financial aid.

The Rest is Silence

Students take it easy (or slightly easier) and things quiet down at Bread Loaf over the upcoming Long Weekend. The Office will be closed on Friday, as will the Bookstore. There won't be a *Crumb* that day, a van run that afternoon, or a dance that Saturday night. Fortunately, Burlington, American Flatbread, and the East Middlebury swimmin' hole will all remain open for your enjoyment.

There's Matter in These Sizes

Look for a Bread Loaf T-shirt signup sheet outside the Dining Hall today or tomorrow. You'll have to act fast to secure a shirt in your size, though; we need to place the order quickly to ensure delivery before summer's end. Kids' and adult sizes available.

More Work from Beveridge Than From Eye?

Tensions are mounting in the Christerical Duo over whether Eric Eye or Christie Beveridge is more responsible for their summer's success. Still, the infighting didn't prevent them from agreeing that Henrik Ibsen was the author who hung a portrait of his worst enemy (Strindberg) above his desk as motivation to out-write his nemesis. Former Director's Assistant Kurt Broderson also got the answer right, adding that he's hung a photo of Christie and Eric (each with a few teeth strategically blacked out with a Sharpie) above his computer and saying he'll be damned if those two Assistants think they can dethrone him as Trivia Champ. If you think you know the answer to today's question, or if you find a clue in one of today's headlines, tell Jon Freeman by 11 tomorrow morning to see your name mentioned in tomorrow's *Crumb*.

What Do I Have to Do to Put You in This Nice Little Paule Marshall Model Today?

Today's the last day to get deep discounts on the Bookstore's assortment of previously-owned textbooks before they're shipped back to Middlebury tomorrow. Unless you share the antipathy towards used books Thornton Melon voices in *Back to School* ("They've already been read!"), hustle over to the Bookstore this afternoon to pick up cheap copies of whatever your heart desires.

X-Ray Vision Can't Reveal Hidden Meaning

Sacrificing thigh-bones of best oxen is one way to attempt to curry favor with the local deities who presumably dispense inspiration for 7-10 page analyses according to the succulence of the offerings, but it's a lot of work, and it's *so* been done before. Why not just cry for help and hope that our local comic-book character will fly to the rescue, no doubt using one of the **Top Ten Super Abilities of Bread Loaf's Resident Superhero, Loaf-Man** to aid you in your hour of need? Get submissions to the *Crumb* by **Thursday** at 10 a.m.; a list of Loaf-Man's talents, handy for tailoring your urgent requests to suit his particular abilities, will appear in that day's *Crumb*.

Choose Your Own Crumb

The Daily Bulletin of the Bread Loaf School of English in Vermont

Volume 88, Number 17

Wednesday, July 18, 2007

Trivia

Which American writer claimed she found nothing more exciting than diagramming sentences?

Events

Power Yoga
5:00, Barn 1

Director's Reception
5:00, Inn Porch

Awards Dinner
6:00, Dining Hall

Ralph Sneed and Nathaniel Bellows Read
7:30, Barn 1

Two Bros. Trivia
8:30

Dinner

Mojo pork or sweet potato enchilada; rice; Darren's grilled vegetables; blueberry pie.

Weather

Today:
Thunderstorms,
71/62.

Tomorrow:
Some storms,
80/64.

Friday:
Thunderstorms,
74/55.

BL That You Can Be

Thoreau went to the woods to "suck the marrow of life." Since you came to Bread Loaf, however, you've just plain sucked. You resolve to change your ways and make the most of your time here; today's *Crumb* will show you how. Start at #1; choose wisely, and you will be rewarded. Choose poorly, and...well, you'll see.

#1: Sneed/Bellows Barn Reading

You realize you can't miss tonight's reading in Barn 1 by former Bread Loafers Ralph Sneed (author of *Evidence of the Journey*) and Nathaniel Bellows (author of *Why Speak?*). You are awed by the beauty and power of their poetry, but you are also heartened by the knowledge that they were once Bread Loafers like you. You want to achieve greatness as they have done, but aren't sure how.

If you think you need to read more books, go to #6.

If you think you need to read more books but start gradually by seeing a film adaptation of a novel, go to #9.

If you think that Top Ten submissions count as "published poetry" and decide to focus on those instead, go to #11.

#2: The Inn Porch, Stein in Hand

You find yourself at the Director's Reception at 5:00. Jen has supplied you with a beer. Succulent hors d'oeuvres festoon the picnic table. You strike up a conversation with one of your professors.

If you ask your professor why no one else brought a yoga mat with them, you're in the wrong place. Go to #4.

If you complain that the hors d'oeuvres are unacceptable because you're used to being served Beluga caviar on toast points, go to #16.

If you are neither disoriented nor overprivileged and simply enjoy the conversation until dinnertime, go to #3.

#3: At Tonight's Awards Dinner

You attend tonight's Awards Dinner and applaud the students who've received named scholarships and the professors who've been awarded endowed faculty chairs. Because you weren't paying attention when Jim explained that the scholarship funds only replace existing financial aid awards, not provide students with extra money, you wonder why you didn't win anything. You corner Jim afterwards to remedy this obvious oversight.

If Jim suggests that you're a spoiled little twit who needs to learn what true suffering looks like, go to #8.

If Jim tells you that he awards scholarships on the basis of how many trivia questions you get right, go to #10.

If Jim invites you to stop by the Office the next morning for a further discussion of your qualifications, go to #18.

#4: Barn 1, Power Yoga Class

You head to Barn 1 at 5 for a refreshing hour of Power Yoga with Kate McKenna. You emerge feeling stretched, rested, and detoxified.

If yoga restores some but not all of your mojo, you may require a serving of "Mojo Pork" at dinner. Go to #3.

If you immediately begin re-toxifying yourself, go to #12.

If your newly flexible body makes you optimistic that you'll bust unbelievable moves on the dance floor this weekend, go to #15.

#5: The Long Weekend

You wake up on Friday morning and get halfway to your first class before you realize that you have today off. There's no van run or dance, and the Bookstore and Office are closed, but these minor inconveniences are swept from your mind by the glorious prospect of three days off. You contemplate your options for the free time.

If you watch Little Children on Friday, go to #9.

If you run in the Goshen Gallop on Saturday, go to #7.

If you just hang out on the Annex or Larch porch, go to #14.

#6: The Bookstore

You drop by the Bookstore to grab some used books before they're pulled from the shelves tomorrow. You also pick up copies Ralph Sneed's and Nathaniel Bellows' volumes of poetry. You lug your enormous stack of books to the cash register, pay for them, and head home.

If you polish off three books before 5 and want to flaunt your newfound knowledge at the Director's Reception, go to #2.

If you strain yourself carrying all those books and need an hour of Power Yoga to relax the muscles, go to #4.

If you sweat through your only T-shirt from the exertion of carrying those books and require a replacement, go to #13.

#7: Goshen Gallop & Charlie Orr Races

You participate in the 10K Goshen Gallop this Saturday and/or Bread Loaf's 5K Charlie Orr Fun Run on the 28th.

If exercising the body clears your mind sufficiently to take a stab at today's trivia question, go to #10.

If you leave your T-shirt at the post-Orr Race John's Pond swim and need a replacement, go to #13.

If you keep on running because "only wusses stop at the finish line," go to #17.

#8: The Davison Reserve Shelves

You find a copy of *The Axe in the Attic*, the incredible documentary about Katrina evacuees' struggles and triumphs, on the reserve shelves. You're impressed that the filmmakers have left their e-mail address and asked for feedback. You watch the film in your room; moved by the stories it tells, you're distracted for the rest of the day.

If you're so affected by the film that you forget about Long Weekend, go to #5.

If you think Loaf-Man actually exists and might be able to use his superpowers to help the Katrina evacuees, go to #11.

If you just want to think and go for a long walk, go to #17.

#9: The Barn Cineplex, Friday Night

You watch *Little Children*, Todd Field's acclaimed adaptation of Tom Perrotta's novel, on Friday at 9.

If the film is realistic but not real enough, you need to see the Katrina documentary you missed on Tuesday. Go to #8.

If you fall asleep and wake up the next night, go to #15.

#10: At Lunch Today, Reading the *Crumb*

Melinda Merriam and Liz Bedell guessed that Edith Wharton was the answer to yesterday's question after scrutinizing the headline "More Work from Beveridge Than From Eye?" You were stumped yesterday, and you're stumped again today. You feel kind of dumb. You contemplate ways of getting back at the *Crumb* Bum.

If you challenge Jon to a Trivia Duel at Two Brothers, go to #12.

If you tell Jon his Retro Dance music stunk, he graciously offers to let you DJ this weekend. Go to #15.

If you tell Jon, "I hope the baby doesn't get your brains," go to #20.

#11: At Tonight's Top Ten Team Meeting

You brainstorm ideas for the **Top Ten Super Powers of Bread Loaf's Resident Superhero, Loaf-Man**, and submit them to the *Crumb* by 10 a.m. tomorrow. With two papers due next week, you find yourself wishing you had some super powers of your own.

If you wish you were like Plastic Man so you could stretch the plausibility of your paper's thesis, go to #4.

If you wish you were like the Flash so you could run like the wind and type those papers just as quickly, go to #7.

If you wish you could remember which marshmallow shapes were the original four in Lucky Charms® cereal, go to #12.

#12: Two Brothers Tavern

You decide to compete in tonight's trivia competition. Question #6 is "What was the name of Gargamel's cat on *The Smurfs*?"

If you just know the answer's in one of those big books your professor assigned but you never bought, go to #6.

If you blurt out, "Helen Vendler! Pathetic fallacy! Iago's use of silence as a medium for Othello's projections!!" you're far too stressed. You need a break. Go to #5.

If you celebrate your victory by shouting, "How you like me NOW, sucka?!!?" at Diesel, the captain of the second-place team, go to #19.

#13: Outside the Dining Hall

You're writing down your name and T-shirt size on the signup sheet when an irresistibly seductive voice whispers in your ear, "I can't wait to see you in that shirt. Actually, I'd prefer to see you without the shirt." You wheel around, already smitten, and ...

If you ask him/her to the Friday film, go to #9.

If you ask him/her to the Saturday Barn dance, go to #15.

*If this actually happens, what are you doing still reading the *Crumb*? Do you really need explicit directions about where to go and what to put where? Why anyone would whisper in your ear is beyond me.*

#14: The Annex Porch/The Larch Porch

You sit on a porch with friends and libations, watching Tamarack's roseate glow before the sun dips below the horizon. You talk and reminisce and joke well into the evening, but you can't shake the feeling that there's some rule you should be following, something about an 11:00 curfew... Anyway, the details elude you.

If you think that quiet hours begin at 11 and tell the porch party to break up, good work. Go back to #5 and enjoy some other feature of the long weekend.

If you can't imagine how a raucous porch party extending late into the night might bother anyone, go to #21.

#15: The Barn, Saturday Night

The Barn is empty and quiet. There's no one behind the counter dispensing Otter Creek, and no one from whom to request Madonna's "Vogue." There appears to be no dance. You're determined to have a good time anyway, but singing "Vogue" while flawlessly executing the video's elaborate dance sequence earns you only the bewildered stares and badly suppressed guffaws of the people who come by to get a cup of coffee. Your reputation in tatters, you slink away and vow to reapply to Bread Loaf next year under an assumed name. *Start again.*

#16: The Kitchen

Chef Jim overhears you complaining about the food and offers to fix the situation. He asks you to help him fetch the tins of Beluga from the walk-in freezer. He opens the door and directs you to one of the back shelves. Astute *Crumb* readers can spot what's coming a mile away, but your spoiled upbringing renders you oblivious to the harsher realities of the world. The freezer door slams shut behind you. If it's any consolation, years from now some people will still think you're "perfect." Those would be the scientists who marvel at how flawlessly your carcass has been preserved when you're discovered and thawed out for research just before the 2134 Writers' Conference. *Start again.*

#17: Somewhere Near Hancock

You must have taken a wrong turn back there somewhere, because you eventually found yourself on a well-worn path, which then dwindled into the vaguest outline of a woodland trail, thence into pure wilderness. To calm yourself, you decide to recite some poetry. "The woods are lovely, dark, and deep," you chant, although only the last two adjectives accurately describe your current surroundings. "But I have promises to keep," you recite, "and miles to go before I sleep." That's where you're wrong, because it's actually only a few yards until you cross paths with the panther. *Start again.*

#18: Jim's Office

You find Jim sitting at one end of a large conference table, stroking a hairless cat and occasionally raising his pinky to his lips. Emily Bartels, dressed in a Salvation Army uniform, looks at you severely. You sit down. Jim calls you selfish and inattentive. Fair enough, you concede. Why he blames you for the hairlessness of his feline friend, however, you can't begin to fathom. Jim didn't get to be evil by being logical, though, and with the press of a button he sends you plummeting into an incinerator which, unfortunately for you, works far better than the one in *Austin Powers*. *Start again.*

#19: The Battell Bridge, Downtown

You've always enjoyed the soothing, almost hypnotic rumble of the Otter Creek falls, but that was from the safe vantage point of one of the scenic overlooks. The roar of the rushing water is far more frightening when Diesel's dangling you above it by your ankles — although even that terror is nothing like what you experience when he lets go. *Start again.*

#20: The Laundry Room

That "Out of Order" sign is posted on that one washer all summer long, and Bread Loafers shun it in favor of functioning machines. If anyone had bothered to lift the lid, they would have discovered that the reason it no longer works is because your body has been forcibly inserted into it and mangled almost beyond recognition, despite the fact that the machine was clearly set to "Delicates." *Start again.*

#21: The Annex Porch, early morning

Ever striving to polish her administrative skills, Emily Bartels has been reading a history of effective disciplinary practices. Unfortunately for you, she's only gotten to the chapter on Renaissance England's treatment of criminals. It's a mere coincidence that you were the one in her path and downright bizarre that she happened to be carrying a broadsword with her, but it's entirely logical that the sight of your severed head on a pike serves as an effective noise deterrent for the remainder of the session. *Start again.*

#22: Victory!

Congratulations! Your choices prove that you are indeed the *ne plus ultra* of Bread Loaf scholarship. When you talk in class, your professors take notes and raise their hands when they have a question. Chef Jim offers to carve your brisket tableside. Emily is speechless in your presence. The Front Desk staff keeps leaving "While You Were Out" slips in your box from some organization calling itself "The Nobels" or something like that. *You win!*

The Crumb

The Daily Bulletin of the Bread Loaf School of English in Vermont

Volume 88, Number 18

Thursday, July 19, 2007

Trivia

Which oft-anthologized American writer composed prayers specifically to accompany "urinary and excretory activities"?

Events

Madrigalists
5:00 Thursday

Gilmore
9:00 Thursday

Little Children
9:00 Friday

Goshen Gallop
4:00 Saturday

Blue Parlor
7:30 Sunday

Sexual
Orientation
Discussion Grp.
9:00 Sunday

Dinner

Steak, mushroom,
and Guinness pie
with horseradish
mashed potatoes
or Spanish
vegetable paella;
ginger pecan cake.

Weather

(the Net is down)

Today: Hang on
while I look out
the window.

Um... how about
"indeterminate."

Tomorrow: 90%
chance the Net
will be back up
for you to get
your own damn
forecast.

Let's Break Bread Together

The Long Weekend brings with it a spate of closings and a sharply reduced slate of activities. The Office and Bookstore will not open tomorrow. There will not be an afternoon van run tomorrow, although you can hitch a ride downtown (but not back) at 9 a.m. at the Front Desk. Lunch today is the last sit-down meal until Sunday dinner. There will be no dance Saturday night.

There is some comforting constancy amidst these multitudinous changes, however. A resident of Gilmore has notified the *Crumb* that they will have "something" going on there tonight, and the Friday Film Fest continues as scheduled with tomorrow's screening of *Little Children*.

Mama Told Me Not to Crumb

The *Crumb* will resume publication on Monday; until then, please utilize either the advanced technology of CyberBarn, the "town crier" strategy of a Dining Hall announcement, or some other means of communication to broadcast news of import.

Stop by Woods on a Showy Evening

We promised you tours of the Frost Cabin a few weeks back, but all the clouds that lour'd upon our house forced a postponement. Hope for favorable conditions next Tuesday, because no less an authority than John Elder has offered to lead tours of the cabin that night at 7:30. You can walk to the Homer Noble farm or hop aboard one of the shuttle vans that'll depart from the Front Desk starting shortly after 7.

Feel free to bring along your *Collected Poetry of Robert Frost* as well, because after the cabin tours conclude, the annual Frost Séance, a communal reading of favorite Frost poems in an attempt to summon his spirit hither, will commence on the cabin's lawn. (We haven't seen an apparition yet, but one year I *swear* I heard Frost's voice. Skeptics like to chirp that that's because someone brought a boom box and a CD of Frost reading to that year's Séance, but I trust my paranormal instincts.)

Notes from Above Ground

The Madrigalists, anticipating that the relief of finally having reached Long Weekend will make their notes glow with audible joy, will rehearse as scheduled at 5 today in the Barn. On today's schedule are "Fern Hill" and "Peanut Shell"; both are in fact the titles of musical numbers, not colors available in the J. Crew catalog.

Throng Thunk Blue

No, Neil Diamond isn't lisping. Blue Parlor crowds have been good so far this year, and undoubtedly another friendly audience will gather in the Blue Parlor on Sunday at 7:30 to hear Heather Fee, Frank Reetz, Mimi Morimura, and Stan Badgett read from their work. The ongoing Internet outage prevents me from Googling the four readers and listing their published works and other recognitions, so I'll err on the cautious side and say they've only received *one* PEN-Faulkner Award and three Booker Prize *nominations* between them.

School Now Named "Brenda Loaf"

Please welcome artist, writer, and educationalist Brenda Engel to Bread Loaf. Brenda, who is visiting classes for two days, is a founding member of the North Dakota Study Group on Evaluation and has worked for many years on the documentation of children's art, writing, and play.

If You'd Enjoy Watching Little Children...

...then come to the Barn tomorrow at 9. The kiddies in Todd Field's acclaimed film are various shades of adorable, it's true, but the true title characters are the adults who, chafing at the limitations marriage and parenthood impose upon them, act upon their juvenile impulses and reveal the anguish and confusion bubbling beneath the façade of suburban bliss. Kate Winslet and that guy who played Joe Pitt in the HBO *Angels in America* (No Internet! Where are you in my hour of need, imdb.com?) star.

If You'd Enjoy Watching Little Children...

...then get in touch with Sara Blair, who writes, "Jonathan and I are looking for someone who might be able to help us with childcare for our two lively kids (10 and 7) this Saturday, c. 12-2:30ish. This should be an easy gig, given that both children will be deeply immersed in *Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows*. Anyone interested should leave a note in our mailbox, drop us a line on BreadNet, or send an owl into the dining hall."

Because "100% Cotton" Matters

The Bread Loaf T-shirts are always of the finest quality, custom-built to withstand the sweatiest soccer match, repel the nastiest coffee stains, and maintain their structural integrity through up to 12 consecutive hours of grappling with *The Prelude*. The signup sheet outside the Dining Hall comes down tomorrow, so reserve yours soon.

Goshen's Eleven?

Although the organizers of the Goshen Gallop contemplated adding an extra kilometer this year, they decided that it's enough to be "the toughest 10K in New England." The starting gun for the 29th Annual Gallop will go off at 4:00 tomorrow afternoon at the Blueberry Hill Inn. There's also a concurrent and presumably less taxing 5K run; once the Internet is back up, you can Google the Gallop for registration info and further details.

Senior Meeting Sure to Be a Fund Time

Mark Elberfeld asks seniors to congregate in the Blue Parlor on Monday at 5 to finalize their class gift. He adds that we only need *one* donor to step up at the \$750,000 level to make the "Class of 2007 Helipad" a reality.

Music to Our Ears

The Alex Levin Trio (two-thirds New York-based, one-third currently residing in the Annex) will present a concert in the Barn at 9 on Tuesday. Alex will play the piano, Diallo House will play upright bass, and Ismail Lawal will be on drums. Alex will also be selling the trio's two CDs at the show to help pay the band.

Long Weekend Brings *Deathly* Silence to Campus

Saturday's release of *Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows* is the most anticipated publication day at Bread Loaf since August 3, 2005, the day students and faculty stripped the Bookstore shelves clean of the potboiler *Metacognitive Precepts in William Cowper's Early Poetry*. Bread Loafers aplenty will be toting around Book 7 next week, but readers should please bear in mind the following:

1. The book may be thick, but taking the dust jacket off won't fool anyone into thinking that it's some hefty volume of neohistoricist criticism you're poring over.
2. Do not assume that comparing *Harry Potter* to one of your course texts is automatically a valid interpretive strategy. *for colored girls who have considered suicide when the rainbow is enuf*, *Blood Meridian*, and *Absalom, Absalom!* would seem to be particularly unpromising partners.
3. If you finish the book and go around blabbing about the ending, you will make the Freedman, Brown, Green-Lewis, and Shoulson children cry. Then they will take you out behind Maris and reenact the closing scene from *Braveheart*.

Drug Testing Leaves Alice B. Toke-less

Melinda Merriam, Kurt Broderson, and the Christerical Duo identified Gertrude Stein as the writer with a thing for diagramming sentences – but the more important news is that responding to public outrage and a threatened Congressional subcommittee hearing about rumored rampant drug use on its campuses, Bread Loaf authorities today announced that a comprehensive, zero-tolerance drug-testing plan has been implemented for all characters in texts assigned for Bread Loaf courses. Word has it that Thomas de Quincey has been issued a lifetime ban, and the Dickensian Characters' Union has lodged a protest over the suspensions of several of its shopkeepers, beadles, and other stock characters who tested positive for snuff.

The Winners' Tale

The *Crumb* initially thought that this list represented Jim's best attempts to be included among this week's Top Ten Super Powers of Loaf-Man. It seemed uncreative and irrelevant, even by the standards of Jim's usual submissions – but then it dawned on the *Crumb* that this was, in fact, a list of the scholarship and faculty chair winners from last night's Awards Banquet. If you weren't there, please congratulate the following folks in person:

Charles Orr: *Carrie Jewell and Renee Lewin*
 Laurence Holland: *Alison Lemoine*
 John M. Kirk, Jr.: *Clay Gahan*
 James Andreas: *Susan Godwin*
 Elizabeth Bailey Award: *Reeshma Charania*
 Elizabeth Bailey Scholarship: *Marty McMahon*
 Chase Byron: *Dave Patterson*
 Ruth Walzer: *Adam Cluff*
 Dulcie Scott: *Rachel Wortman*
 Rocky Gooch: *Tamar Paull*
 Raymond Waldron: *Mike Spillman*
 Beth Cubeta: *Zoe Lasden-Lyman*
 Frank and Eleanor Griffiths Chair: *Robert Stepto*
 Robert Frost Chair: *Dare Clubb*
 Ruth and Lillian Marino Chair: *Michael Armstrong*

Barn Readings Keep Getting Verse

We'll gladly break from tradition on Monday, when instead of a faculty reader in the Barn we'll hear Cynthia Huntington, a Bread Loaf graduate and current Professor of English and Creative Writing at Dartmouth, read selections from her poetry. Cynthia has published four collections of poetry, including *We Have Gone to the Beach* (1996), winner of the Beatrice Hawley Award and the Jane Kenyon Award, and *The Radiant* (2003), winner of the Levis Prize. Everyone is invited to attend.

Spider-Man Responsible for Problems with Web

Loaf-Man is not faster than a speeding bullet (he's as leery of the Ripton speed trap as the next superhero), nor is he more powerful than a locomotive (a midsize sedan, like a Volkswagen Passat, he might be able to handle), nor can he leap tall buildings in a single bound (although his M.A. in English enables him to make unbelievable leaps in logic that his professors largely overlook).

Loaf-Man is also apparently helpless to remedy campus Internet outages, which makes one wonder what good the superpowers he *does* possess are. Not everyone's list made it through BreadNet this morning, so we may have to supplement this on Monday. For now, however, here are the

Top Ten Non-Electronically Submitted Super Powers of Bread Loaf's Resident Superhero, Loaf-Man

21. Can drink on Larch porch all week and still do passably in classes. (LP)
20. Able to leap to the front of the salad bar line in a single bound. (DA)
19. Can understand every allusion in the *Crumb*. (LP)
18. His buttocks mold perfectly to even the most uncomfortable Adirondack chair. (IYF)
17. Actually understands what the hell is going on in a Pirandello play. (AS)
16. Skin emits protective Citronella barrier. (DA)
15. Never runs out of patience when explaining to folks outside of academia what Bread Loaf is all about. (MY)
14. Can see through any faulty syllogism or superficial hidden premise. (MY)
13. Didn't have time to read *The Faerie Queene*; wrote about ABBA's "Dancing Queen" instead and still got an A on the paper. (AS)
12. Is the reason there are so many pregnant women on campus. (LP)
11. Ate the cafeteria's "Very Berry Tiramisu." Doesn't have diabetes. (AS)
10. Can almost beat Emily Bartels in mud-wrestling. (LP)
9. Nearly completed all of the reading for Sabin's *Varieties of Modern Indian Prose*. (AS)
8. Utility belt dispenses Otter Creek Summer Ale and roasted cashews. (DA)
7. He can skinny-dip in Lake Pleiad at any hour, on even the coldest day, immune to both leeches and shrinkage. (IYF)
6. Able to get served at Flatbread on Tuesday. (LP)
5. Able to convince several women per summer that his marriage is only a "cultural symbol." (IYF)
4. He has everyone's name, class choices, and marital status memorized on the first day. (IYF)
3. Rescues maidens from prickly clutches of lecherous pine trees. (DA)
2. Single-handedly killed 83 Dangling Participles during the Language Wars. (AS)
1. Works with Trojan Man to assist campus with family planning needs. (DA)

Current Standings: Director's Assistants (DA) 20, Apple Seedlings (AS) 16, Inn Your Face (IYF) 15, Larch Porch (LP) 10, Boys of Barn East (BOBE) 9, Michael Yeakey (MY) 5, WarrenWights (WW) 5, Exiles on Main Street (EMS) 5, Waitstaff (WS) 5, Oxford Assistants (OXA) 4, Bloomfield Beauties (BB) 3, Jessica Horner (JH) 1.

The Crumb

The Daily Bulletin of the Bread Loaf School of English in Vermont

Volume 88, Number 19

Monday, July 23, 2007

Trivia

Which playwright, asked for some kind words upon the founding of the New York Drama Critics Circle, called being forced to praise critics a "terrible," "harrowing," "morbid," and "abnormal" experience?

Events

Madrigalists
5:00, Barn

Senior Meeting
5:00, Blue Parlor

**Cynthia
Huntington
Reads**
7:30, Barn

Dinner

Tuscan pork sandwich with roasted pepper rouille or polenta chips with sun-dried tomatoes, pine nuts, and cheese; wild rice with mushrooms; summer braised greens; mystery dessert.

Weather

Today:
PM showers,
73/56.

Tomorrow:
AM showers,
77/57.

Wednesday:
Mostly sunny,
83/57.

Radiant Reading Tonight as Poet Cynthia Huntington Returns

Cynthia Huntington, formerly Poet Laureate of New Hampshire and currently Professor of English and Creative Writing at Dartmouth, will read from her work tonight at 7:30 in the Barn. Cynthia's most recent volume of poetry, *The Radiant* (2003), won the Levis Prize and was called "a remarkable book" by the judges; *We Have Gone to the Beach* (1996) won both the Beatrice Hawley Award and the Jane Kenyon Award; and her memoir *The Salt House* (1999) was called "polished, luminous, and elemental...like a treasure from the sea" by *Publishers Weekly*. Cynthia proudly lists an M.A. from the Bread Loaf School of English among her many accomplishments, and tonight's reading promises to be a powerful and memorable experience. Everyone is encouraged to attend the reading, then join Cynthia for refreshments in Treman.

Senior Meeting No Blythe Matter

Mark Elberfeld and Blythe Coons asked the *Crumb* to pass along three reminders to the seniors. First, there will be an important meeting today at 5 in the Blue Parlor. Next, all seniors need to get their invitation count to Sarah Robinson by midnight tonight. Lastly, they say to the seniors that "if you neglect either of these responsibilities, we will end you." (I think I heard that last one right, although I was slightly distracted by the brass knuckles Blythe was brandishing in my face at the time.)

Madrigalists Attempt Dylan Tune

Fortunately for the Madrigalist singers, performing "Fern Hill" involves only getting the piece in tune, not untangling the syntactical labyrinth of Dylan Thomas' prose. With only nine days before their first performance, however, it's vital that all members attend today's 5:00 rehearsal.

Desire Under the Pines

When given the option to come to the Retro Dance in costume, Bread Loafers answered the call by dressing as Bruce Springsteen and several variations on the Valley Girl theme. Not having an announced theme for the following week's dance didn't deter determined Larchers from donning togas, the significance of which has yet to be adequately explained. Who knows what will appear in the Barn when we, and you, pull out all the stops for Saturday's Suppressed Desires costume dance? Novitiates in this holy Bread Loaf tradition are warned that costumes need not un-suppress an actual desire, particularly if doing so would damage your reputation or unnerve Caligula.

Suppressed Desires is so monumental in scope that the customary four hours of dancing are inadequate to contain its energies. While the Assistants lay in an extra-copious supply of all the necessities for the festivities and Kate McKenna and Jon Freeman build a playlist that'll keep you dancing from 9 'til 2, you should be planning your outfit and excursing to Middlebury or Burlington to procure the necessary adornments.

Loafers Need to Get Busy Levin

Be sure to carve out an hour in your schedule tomorrow to come to the Barn at 9 to hear the Alex Levin Trio, led by Bread Loaf's own Alex Levin, perform. The trio (Alex on piano, Diallo House on upright bass, and Ismail Lawal on drums) plays "non-esoteric" jazz (in other words, eminently listenable), and anyone who heard Alex play in the jazz clubs of Asheville last year knows that this is not an event to miss. Yeah, yeah, we all know how much you have to write and how little time you have to do it in, but keep in mind that when summer's done, it's this kind of event that sticks in the memory. After all, no one reminisces fondly about pulling an all-nighter in Davison Library working on Robert Frost – at least not since he passed away and gave that phrase a purely scholarly meaning.

Discussion Tabled Again This Week

The Tuesday dinner table for queer and queer-friendly Bread Loafers was a resounding success last week, so there will be a table similarly dedicated to discussion tomorrow at dinner and each Tuesday after that. Look for a "reserved" sign on the table to orient you towards this orientation conversation.

Barn Gets Window Treatment

This week's Barn film is Hitchcock's classic *Rear Window*, starring Jimmy Stewart and Grace Kelly. Showtime is 9:00, but as a special treat, Professor Jonathan Freedman will give a brief talk about the film starting at 8:45, in exchange for which he promises not to go all *Mystery Science Theater* and chime in every ten seconds during the film itself.

Developing Story

Ed Brown will post copies of the All-School Photo and shots of the other affinity groups (faculty, waiters, seniors) at the Front Desk sometime today. In order to receive a copy of whatever print or prints your little heart desires, you must place your order with Ed by Thursday at dinner. For an extra \$195, Ed will PhotoShop your face into the faculty photo – a sure-fire way to enhance your reputation back home.

Stop By Woods on *Wednesday Evening*

In order to avoid a conflict with the Alex Levin Trio performance on Tuesday night (and we all know how quickly conflicts between angry jazz musicians and irascible Ph.D.'s escalate into street brawls, with vitriolic witticisms and double basses flying to and fro), Jim Maddox and John Elder have agreed to move to Wednesday evening the Frost Cabin tours and subsequent "Séance" (reading Frost's poems in the field outside the cabin and hoping – Poetry Writing students at least – that the resident muse will look kindly on future attempts at versification). You can drive yourself to the Homer Noble Farm (from Bread Loaf, take 125 West and turn right at Frost Road, just before the Frost Wayside) or take one of the shuttles that will depart from the Inn shortly after 7. Bring a flashlight and a volume of Frost to contribute one of your favorite poems to the Séance.

Not My Type

For years, the *Crumb* has tried everything from veiled character impugnments to outright threats of physical violence to dissuade the cretins who e-mail and word-process on the first floor of the Library from so doing. Nothing has worked. The only logical explanation for the persistence of such behavior, given the prominently located, capitalized, highlighted, copiously exclamation-pointed signs enjoining computer users not to type, is that these people are simply illiterate. Therefore, the next time you're annoyed by someone clattering on at a Library keyboard, it's important to be sympathetic to that person's plight. The *Crumb* suggests you either a) get the person's attention and read this article out loud to him or her, omitting some of the larger words to facilitate understanding, or b) grab whatever volume of the *Oxford English Dictionary* is at hand and beat this message on the subject's head in Morse code until he or she registers either comprehension or unconsciousness.

In Dramatic Shift, Ruler Decrees Dishonorable Burial for Anyone Not Supporting *Antigone*

Eager to avoid Creon's horrific fate, Jim Maddox encourages all Bread Loafers to go to Barn 6 on Wednesday from 7-8 pm to watch *Antigone*, a forty-minute film version of the ancient Greek play of the same name, adapted, directed, acted and edited by John Speek's 11th grade English class. This film has been heralded by Mr. Speek's sometimes overly effusive department head as "not just a project, but a work of art." It played to two sold-out showings at the "R.C. Mahar Regional School Last Day of School Film Festival" and was greeted with the thunderous applause and standing ovations of students and administrators alike. Following the film Mr. Speek hopes to warmly elicit and then rapaciously appropriate your feedback as well as offer some of his own ideas on the topic of collaborative movie making in the high school classroom.

Will You Start That Damned Infernal Racket?

Recognition for merely participating, rampant though it may be in American culture these days, is *not* on offer for Wimbleloaf. You will receive no blue ribbon just for signing up, nor will you receive a cute sticker reading "At Least I Tried!" if you are roundly defeated in the first round. Just play your matches already.

Some cancellations were necessitated by last Thursday's deluge, during which the *Crumb* inbox was flooded with animal sightings (two moose, two foxes, two swallows, two deerflies, all heading towards a bearded old man aboard what was either a large seagoing vessel or a really big wooden RV). Take advantage of the promising weather forecast to get that first match underway soon.

Run Like the Dickens at Charlie's Race

Runners, joggers, and walkers of all abilities are encouraged to participate in the Charlie Orr Memorial 5K Fun Run this Saturday, starting at 9:30 a.m. at John's Pond. The race is named for a beloved Bread Loaf student and enthusiastic marathoner who died at a tragically early age (and in whose honor whom two Orr Scholarships are awarded each summer). Ben Freedman will surely be there to ask "how come you're so slow when your legs are so long?" of the many adults who will finish behind him; you should come too to traverse the Route 125/Frost Trail course at whatever speed you so desire.

Misbegotten Guesses Plague Trivia Teams

Cotton Mather was the writer who composed prayers to utter while occupied with "urinary and excretory activities," but the usually reliable sources of right answers fumbled this one. Kurt Broderson thought it was Robert Frost, and the Christerical Duo feebly guessed George Orwell. Anika Schroeder knew it was Cotton Mather – and on her first foray all summer into the trivia contest! If Anika wants to go for two in a row, she'll have to find one of the clues to today's author's identity. The Web won't help her, as Googling the four quoted adjectives only leads to online reviews of *Are You Smarter Than a Fifth Grader?*

Tough Topic Puts Top 10 Teams in Gnash-ville

Teams may chafe when they hear of the challenge posed by this week's Top Ten category, but as this summer's submissions have been of uncommonly high quality, it seems within reason to demand a little something extra this time. Your answers must not only be humorous, but possess the pithiness and rhetorical balance of "Velcro Arms, Teflon Heart" and "I Changed Her Oil, She Changed My Life." You guessed it – we're looking for the **Top Ten Titles of Country-Western Songs About Bread Loaf**. Put on your ten-gallon thinking caps and get your ideas to the *Crumb* by Friday morning.

The EncyclopediCrumb

The Daily Bulletin of The Bread Loaf School of English in Vermont

Volume 88, Number 20

Tuesday, July 24, 2007

Trivia

Of which writer did Henry Wadsworth Longfellow say, "She explains too much"?

Events

Power Yoga
5:00, Barn 1

Queer/Queer-Friendly Table
6:00, Dining Hall

Soccer
7:30, Field

Alex Levin Trio
9:00, Barn

Dinner

Roast beef with Madeira wine jus or vegetable paella; garlic and herb roasted potatoes; slow roasted tomatoes; balsamic roasted beets; we can only hope dessert is something *not* roasted.

Weather

Today:
AM clouds, PM sun, 77/56.

Tomorrow:
Sunny,
83/57.

Thursday:
Sunny,
84/61.

Alexander the Great



was King of Macedon from 336-323 B.C.E. By the time of his death, he had conquered Anatolia, Syria, Phoenicia, Judea, Gaza, Egypt, Bactria and Mesopotamia, extending the boundaries of his own empire as far as the borders of Punjab without losing a battle. What he could *not* do at all well, however, was play jazz piano in a New York-based trio. That great Alexander is our own Alex Levin, who'll present an hour of fantastic jazz music with the **Alex Levin Trio** (featuring Diallo House on upright bass and Ismail Lawal on drums) tonight at 9 in the Barn. The trio performs regularly on the New York jazz club circuit and has released two CDs, which will be available for purchase after the show. Everyone is invited.

Image: Alex Levin is so esteemed in jazz circles that his face adorns legal currency, such as this silver coin. He has since cut his hair.

Homer Noble is the name of a farm in Ripton, Vermont once owned by Robert Frost. It is the site of tomorrow night's **Robert Frost Cabin Tours and Séance**. You may drive yourself to the farm (take 125 to Frost Road; park inside the fenced area) or take the Bread Loaf shuttle, which will leave the Inn shortly after 7:00. At 7:30, Professor John Elder will lead tours of the cabin where Frost spent most of his summers between 1939 and 1961; afterwards, Bread Loafers will linger in the meadow outside the cabin to share favorite Frost poems.

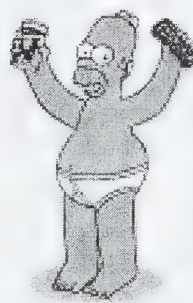


Image: "Homer Ig-Noble" (not related to "Homer Noble").

Henry IV, Holy Roman Emperor

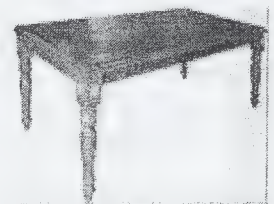
Ruled from 1084 until his forced abdication in 1105. During his reigns as King of Germany and Holy Roman Emperor, dealt with many people with funny-sounding names, including Agnes de Poitou, Archbishop of Cologne Herman II, Antipope Honorius II, Count Otto of Savoy, the Roman noble Cencio I Frangipane, Frederick of Swabia, and Egbert II, Margrave of Meissen.

Fortunately, none of these very silly characters appear in Tom Stoppard's riveting new version of **Pirandello's Henry IV**, for which tickets will be available starting tomorrow, Wednesday, after lunch at the front desk in the Inn. Tickets are free as always, but the house is on the "quaint" (read: small) side this summer and seats will go fast. Performances run from August 1-5, starting at 8:30. Run time is approximately 100 minutes.

Table

Originally from the Latin *tabula*, meaning "flat piece," tables used to have no legs. Technological advances later provided tables with one, two, and three legs, but not until the revolutionary advance of the *fourth* leg did the table consistently stay standing up and enable people to sit at it to eat, as they will at tonight's **Queer and Queer-Friendly Student/Faculty/Community Table** at dinner. Anyone interested in a friendly conversation about issues of sexual orientation in education and in life is invited to join the table.

Image: It's a table, you dimwit.



The Hour

An hour has not always been defined as sixty minutes, although sixty minutes is exactly how long the **Bookstore will be open tomorrow afternoon: from 1:30 to 2:30**. Some medieval cultures considered sunrise to be always exactly at the *beginning* of the first hour, noon at the end of the sixth hour and sunset exactly at the end of the twelfth hour. This meant that the length of hours varied from day to day, which made lesson planning extremely difficult for medieval teachers.

Austin, Texas

The capital of the state of Texas, Austin (population 709,893) is the 16th-largest city in the United States. Among Austin's famous residents is singer-songwriter Willie Nelson, who wrote "I Got In At 2 With A 10 And Got Up At 10 With A 2," the kind of catchy, clever title that'll be featured in this week's list of the **Top Ten Titles of Country-Western Songs About Bread Loaf**. Get your submissions to the *Crumb* by Friday morning.

Mollusks, Reproductive Urges of

Some mollusks reproduce when water currents cause internal fertilization within the mantle cavity; others utilize parthenogenesis, in which the female produces eggs or young directly without the need for the eggs to be fertilized by a male. Even these seemingly unlibidinous creatures, however, exhibit traditional signs of attraction (rapid heart rate, elaborate courtship rituals, stammering) at the sight of the incomparable Grace Kelly in *Rear Window*, showing this Friday at 9 in the Barn. Professor Jonathan Freedman will give some brief remarks about the film at 8:45; given that he finds *The Golden Bowl*'s Charlotte Stant "babealicious" (source: *Crumb* Bum, 1996 Late Victorian Fictions class), there's no telling what higher superlative he'll invent for Princess Grace during his talk.

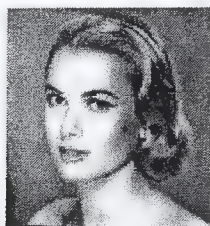


Image 1: Grace Kelly.



Image 2: "Babealicious" Charlotte Stant, compared to Grace Kelly.

Zero Suppression

refers to the removal of redundant zeroes from a number. As it is used primarily in mathematics and information theory, the term is strange and frightening. However, it is also an apt description of the Barn from 9-2 this Saturday night, when the **Suppressed Desires Dance** will feature Bread Loafers in costumes that unveil their hidden urges, dormant proclivities, and covert hankerings. Desires to hear particular songs or enjoy a frothy beverage should not remain suppressed, as DJs Kate and Jon and Director's Assistants Eric, Christie, and Jen will try to accommodate requests at the sound booth and bar respectively.

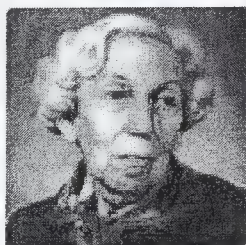


Image: The best *Suppressed Desires* costume ever: Faculty member Harold Bloom comes dressed as Eudora Welty, 1966.

Animals, Maximum Speed Of

The fastest humans participating in the **Charlie Orr Memorial Fun Run** (Saturday, 9:30 a.m., John's Pond) typically traverse the 5K course in 17 or 18 minutes, an average speed of 10.94 mph. Assuming they sustain their maximum speeds over the length of the race course, here's how quickly various animals could be expected to finish the Orr Race:

Peregrine falcon (200+ mph):	55.8 seconds (course record)
Thomson's gazelle (50 mph):	3 min., 43 sec.
Mongolian Wild Ass (40 mph):	4 min., 39 sec.
Chicken (9 mph):	20 min., 40 sec.
Garden snail (0.03 mph):	4 days, 18 min., 20 sec.*

*(if it's hauling ass**)

** (much, much longer if it's hauling the Mongolian Wild Ass)

Anouilh, Jean

French playwright whose work, most famously a translation of *Antigone*, deals with the striking and ineluctable dichotomy between of idealism and realism. That is also exactly how John Speek's 11th graders would describe their film version of *Antigone*. Others who viewed it at the "R.C. Mahar Regional School Last Day of School Film Festival" called it "cool" and "fun" and "really interesting," which is why you should go to Barn 6 tomorrow at 7 to watch it and hear John discuss some ideas for bringing collaborative movie making into the high school classroom.



Image: Jean Anouilh comes to *Suppressed Desires* as "Half James Joyce, Half T.S. Eliot" in 1948.

Early Photography

The first permanent photograph was an image produced in 1826 by the French inventor Nicéphore Niépce. However, the picture took so long to expose that by the time it was finished the subjects (Niépce's children) had grown up and gone off to college, rendering the print useless. Fortunately, the **All-School Photos** took much less time than that to produce; you can order your copy at the Front Desk anytime before dinner on Thursday.

O'Neill, Eugene Gladstone

American playwright (1888-1953) famous for masterpieces such as *Long Day's Journey into Night* and *The Iceman Cometh*. Also the answer to yesterday's trivia question, correctly identified by Rachel Bradbury, Liz Bedell, and Robbie Harold. Also disowned his daughter for marrying Charlie Chaplin when she was 18 and Chaplin was 54. Also sometimes confused, by really confused people, with Thomas P. "Tip" O'Neill, longtime Speaker of the House whose plays, including *Quorum Call for the Youth Employment and Training Act of 1977*, make for less gripping reading.

Practical Jokes are actions intended to produce what the perpetrator imagines to be a humorous outcome at the expense of the target. Covering vehicles in toilet paper and placing porch chairs in trees, while technically practical jokes, seem rather sophomoric for this community. When English scholars want to get back at someone, our preferred methods are a character-assassinating profile in *The New York Review of Books* or a tightly knit sestina about a brook in which the target is figured, with scathing subtlety, as a trout. Get *with* it, people!

The Crumb

The Daily Bulletin of the Bread Loaf School of English in Vermont

Volume 88, Number 21

Wednesday, July 25, 2007

Trivia

Which poet described an early teacher who was "merciless to metaphor or image" when a plainer word would suffice and insisted that "lyres and harps" should be replaced by "pen and ink"?

Events

Power Yoga
5:00, Barn

Director's Reception
5:00, West Lawn

Antigone
7:00, Barn 6

Frost Cabin Tours & Séance
7:30, Noble Farm

Dinner

Chicken or veggie pot pie;
butter-milk-scallion Yukon Gold mashed potatoes; zucchini summer batonets with basil;
Kentucky spice cake.

Weather

Today:
Sunny, 83/57.

Tomorrow:
More sun,
85/60.

Friday:
Scattered storms,
82/60.

Spoil That Inner Child: "Infantile Regression" Suppressed Desires Theme

If you go out in the woods Saturday, you're sure of a big surprise. If you go out in the woods Saturday, you'd better go in disguise. "Infantile Regression" is the theme of this year's Suppressed Desires costume dance (although Bread Loaf veterans will agree that "Infantile Regression" pretty aptly describes *every* Suppressed Desires dance). On Saturday, the Barn decorations will take you back to kindergarten and there will be toys and games aplenty to keep you busy while you're not dancing. The Assistants did feel it wise to make several exceptions to the evening's juvenile character, however. The Snack Bar will *not* serve graham crackers and little cartons of milk that are impossible to open, but dispense Otter Creek as is customary; the musical selections will be your usual dance stuff and will *not* include "The Teddy Bears' Picnic" or anything by Raffi. So eat your vegetables, wash your hands, clean your room, apologize to your sister, get your ID...and then, *maybe* then, the Director's Assistants will let you spend some time at the grownups' party.

Elder Statesman to Lead Frost Tours

Tonight starting at 7:30, John Elder will lead tours of the Frost Cabin at the Homer Noble Farm. John is, of course, immensely qualified to serve as your guide, although he professes himself "mildly disappointed" that leading the tours prevents him from reprising a favorite practical joke – namely, dressing as Frost and hiding in the back bedroom, waiting until the first tour group entered the hallway, then jumping out shouting "Blblbaaharghghgh!! Getouttahere!!!" while brandishing an axe.

Bring a flashlight and a favorite Frost poem as well if you plan to stick around after the tours for the annual "Séance," a community reading in the great poet's front yard. To get to the Noble Farm, hop aboard the shuttle van leaving from the Inn at 7 or drive yourself down 125, turn right on Frost Road, and park at the farmhouse.

Speek Greek in Barn 6 Tonight

John Speek writes: "Overwrought with busy schedules, endless deadlines, and all that comes with the second half of Bread Loaf summer? In need of a cathartic event? Come to Barn 6 tonight at 7:00 and view *Antigone*, a film which in the short span of forty minutes subtly balances the dramatic suicide of one of one of the Western canon's greatest heroines alongside a section fondly referred to as the 'slow-mo ding-dong drop.' Put Greek dramatic tradition to the test. See if the complete destruction of someone's life can't make you feel a little bit better about those five pages you have left to write."

Sox to Be You?

Caitlin Plummer has two bleacher seats (Row 11) for the 7 p.m. Red Sox-Orioles game on Tuesday, July 31 that she can't use. If you'd be interested in buying them from her, drop Caitlin a line on BreadNet.

Another Trio Worth Hearing

Everyone is invited to a special presentation, "Community Connections," tomorrow from 7-8:30 in Barn 1. Sue Halpern, journalist and scholar-in-residence at Middlebury, will speak about "The Face of Democracy: Students as Journalists / Voters as Teachers," her motivation for starting the project, what the kids and their classroom teachers got out of it, and where she's hoping to take it next. "The Face of Democracy" was undertaken by three 10th grade classrooms – one at a regional public school in rural upstate New York, one at a charter school in downtown Oakland, CA, and the other in a charter school in St. Paul. One was a standard English class, one was a journalism class, and one was a humanities class. The kids were of decidedly mixed abilities and a few were physically disabled.

Also, Trenton Central High School teacher and Bread Loaf senior Michael Hodnicki will speak about issues of race, language, and culture in his high school literature classroom and as part of a BreadNet exchange between his students and students from Steamboat Springs, CO. Reeshma Charania, who now teaches at the Banda School in Nairobi, will describe an ongoing project: writing workshops for children and teachers in a Nairobi orphan home.

For An Athlete Who Died Young

Get a good workout and honor the memory of a beloved Bread Loafer from the 1980's at this Saturday's Charlie Orr Memorial 5K Fun Run/Jog/Walk, starting at 9:30 from John's Pond. (There'll still be plenty of time to get all gussied up for Suppressed Desires afterwards.) In its inestimable wisdom, the Front Desk has once again opted to hold the race the morning of Suppressed Desires. One year they scheduled it the morning *after* Suppressed Desires, but the winning time was a day and a half and course marshals had to use those bowling alley gutter-bumpers to keep the woozy participants on course.

Go Fourth and Prosper: *Henry Tix* Available

Tickets for the summer's major theatrical production, Pirandello's *Henry IV*, will be available starting today at the Front Desk. Tickets are free, but they'll disappear quickly (the house is small this summer), so snap yours up soon. The show deals with mature material.

For those too immersed in required reading to have had the time to dip into Pirandello, here's Alan MacVey's take on the play: "*Henry IV* is a psychological mystery by one of modern drama's most celebrated playwrights. Like a Rubik's Cube or a series of doors that open onto other doors, the play explores a day in the life of a man who believes he is the German emperor, Henry IV. The story begins as two of Henry's old friends arrive with a doctor who will examine him to see if he may be coming out of his madness. In a strange performance, Henry enters as a penitent and astonishes everyone with his mixture of confusion and clarity. Further surprises are in store for both characters and audiences as the play goes on.

"*Henry IV* was first performed in 1922 and was immediately hailed as a masterwork. The translation the Acting Ensemble is using is by Tom Stoppard, author of *Shakespeare in Love*, *Arcadia*, and many other popular films and plays. Funny, surprising, intellectually engaging and mysterious, *Henry IV* has something for everyone."

Find Prints Charming at Front Desk

If you'd like to purchase a print of the All-School Photo or any of the Part-of-the-School Photos (faculty, waiters, seniors, etc.), place your order at the Front Desk by dinner tomorrow. Miss the deadline, and you'll have no proof with which to bolster your insinuations to your students that this English geek camp is real and not something you made up to convince them that you *do* have cool friends, *really* you do...

Watch Grace Anatomy on Friday Night

The *Crumb* Bum will definitely be at *Rear Window* at 9 on Friday in the Barn, searching for an answer to the Sphinxian riddle of why Grace Kelly (the sight of whom at Troy would make the Greeks say "Helen *who*?" and abandon the siege, dooming Homer to pen nothing but dirty limericks) falls for the warbly Jimmy Stewart. Perhaps it's the fact that there's nothing little about this Stewart – he's a photographer with a really long...telephoto lens. Whatever her reasons, it's a classic film and a perfect choice for this weekend, since its indulgence of the universal voyeuristic urge makes it a natural lead-in to the glimpses of hidden hankerings on offer at Suppressed Desires the next night.

Afternoon Mourning

The Bookstore will be open this afternoon, but only from 1:30-2:30. Try to contain your grief, as the emotionally fragile Annex residents endeavoring to write papers aren't exactly suffused with confidence when each interpretive claim they hazard is met with the sound of you standing outside the locked Bookstore keening, wailing, singing the "Lachrymosa" from Mozart's *Requiem*, or otherwise lamenting your misfortune.

Raise the Roo Next Weekend

Tamar Paull is seeking an animal lover to spend the weekend of August 3-5 with her chihuahua, Roo. Perks include a beautiful cabin/cottage 2.5 miles from campus, creek right in the backyard, season one of *The Sopranos*, and Internet access. Other perks can be bargained for. You would need to sleep at the cabin both nights, but dog-walking is minimal (Roo is 14 years old and tiny). Please contact Tamar in person or via BreadNet. A duo of dog sitters would be welcome as well.

They Used More Than *Persuasion*

Rachel Bradbury and Christie Beveridge, clearly desperate as the trivia contest enters the home stretch, resorted to odious threats against the *Crumb* Bum to extract yesterday's trivia answer from him. Christie reminded Jon that if she felt like it, she could declare him "overserved" at 9:02 p.m. Saturday night; Rachel vowed that she would disclose to all of Bread Loaf the fact that Jon outsources the actual writing of the *Crumb* to child laborers in Madagascar, paying them a mere fraction of the princely wage he receives for his summer's indolence.

They didn't need to go to such drastic lengths – they could have just spotted "Austin, Texas" among the entries in yesterday's *EncyclopediCrumb* and deduced that Jane Austen was the writer Longfellow said "explained too much." If you know who today's mystery guest is, tell Jon by tomorrow morning.

Top Ten List Seeks Lyrical Ballads

This week's category, **Top Ten Titles of Country-Western Songs About Bread Loaf**, requires competitors to adapt the traditional subjects of the one genre to fit the realities of the other. To assist you in generating good submissions, listed below are some actual country-western song titles, their dominant themes/tropes/images, and possible Bread Loaf-specific alternatives.

1. "She Made Toothpicks Out Of The Timber Of My Heart"

Central themes: Heartbreak; woodworking.

Alternative Bread Loaf theme: The struggle of the individual (Old Piney) against society (the logging company).

2. "I Liked You Better Before I Knew You So Well"

Central theme: Perils of excessive familiarity.

Alternative Bread Loaf theme: Ill-advised post-Square Dance fling and subsequent repercussions.

3. "I Can't Get Over You, So Why Don't You Get Under Me?"

Central themes: Longing; prepositional wordplay.

Alternative Bread Loaf theme: Inversion, subversion and containment in the politics of "festival" in Shakespeare's comedies.

The Crumb

The Daily Bulletin of the Bread Loaf School of English in Vermont

Volume 88, Number 22

Thursday, July 26, 2007

Trivia

The highest price ever paid for a manuscript was \$545,100 at a Christie's auction in 2004 – for which classic American novel?

Events

Madrigalists
5:00, Barn

"Community Connections"
7-8:30, Barn 1

Soccer
7:30, Field

Gilmore
9:00

Dinner

Oriental lemon chicken with broccoli or Evil Prince vegetables; sugar snap peas; strawberry shortcake.

Weather

Today:
Partly cloudy,
85/61.

Tomorrow:
Isolated storms,
83/61.

Weekend:
Increasing likelihood of storms, highs in the mid-70's.

Young at Heart Enjoy 5-Hour Barn-y Marathon at Suppressed Desires

The Director's Assistants had initially thought that an appearance by Barney the Purple Dinosaur would be the perfect culmination of the "Infantile Regression" Suppressed Desires dance (Saturday, 9-2), but licensing entanglements and the *Crumb* Bum's pledge to "cold-cock that annoying &*\$@ with a baseball bat" forced them to reconsider. (Sounds like someone needs a time-out.) There'll still be lots of kiddie games, playthings and activities to keep you occupied in the event of an unforeseen lapse in the danceability of the music. Dress as your best suppressed desire; bring your youthful exuberance by all means, but bring your ID as well to prove you're not as young as you look.

From the Director

Jim Maddox writes: "Two women students on the third floor of the Inn report that clothing has been stolen from their rooms. The thief, besides committing a criminal act, has violated the trust that these two women (and, indeed all of us) have in our community. Although I hate to give such advice, it might be wise to start locking your rooms. The thefts seem to have taken place over the Long Weekend or shortly after. If you have observed any suspicious behavior or have any other information to report, please see me. I very much regret having to publish this notice."

Sale a Masquerade-Supply Bonanza

TJ Maxx is offering deep discounts, the Dollar Store's prices remain predictable, and bargains abound at Ben Franklin and at the Round Robin resale shop in the Marble Works, so if making manifest your Suppressed Desire requires glitter, a fishing vest, suspenders, a bowler hat, a fake mustache, three yards of pink tulle, or a tool belt, you won't have to break the bank to do it. If making manifest your Suppressed Desire requires glitter, a fishing vest, suspenders, a bowler hat, a fake mustache, three yards of pink tulle, and a tool belt, however, you should know that lots of people have gone as Transvestite Outdoorsman Charlie Chaplin before.

Gilmore Tonight Burns, Band, Books

Gilmore residents offer four powerful inducements for Bread Loafers to curtail their intellectual pursuits and make the trek up to their hillside abode this evening. First, the traditional reading from *Ellen* (even as we speak, eight Gilmore scholars are bent over Volumes I and II in the Quest for the Remotely Comprehensible Passage, which Eurystheus briefly considered making one of Hercules' labors before a spasm of pity softened him). Second, the roaring bonfire. Third, a "top-shelf" faculty reader. Lastly, a Gilmore first – a band, Six Beers From Cute, to entertain partygoers.

I'm sorry not to be able to provide more specific info, such as the identity of the reader or the type of music the band will perform, but apparently the residents detected a slight error in my execution of the elaborate Gilmore Secret Handshake and, despite my insistences that I spent three summers in that dormitory and had the documentation to prove it, refused to divulge anything further.

Barn 1 The Place to Be

Everyone is invited to a special presentation, "Community Connections," tonight from 7-8:30 in Barn 1. Sue Halpern, journalist and scholar-in-residence at Middlebury, will speak about "The Face of Democracy: Students as Journalists / Voters as Teachers," her motivation for starting the project, what the kids and their classroom teachers got out of it, and where she's hoping to take it next. "The Face of Democracy" was undertaken by three 10th grade classrooms – one at a regional public school in rural upstate New York, one at a charter school in downtown Oakland, CA, and the other in a charter school in St. Paul. One was a standard English class, one was a journalism class, and one was a humanities class. The kids were of decidedly mixed abilities and a few were physically disabled.

Also, Trenton Central High School teacher and Bread Loaf senior Michael Hodnicki will speak about issues of race, language, and culture in his high school literature classroom and as part of a BreadNet exchange between his students and students from Steamboat Springs, CO. Reeshma Charania, who now teaches at the Banda School in Nairobi, will describe an ongoing project: writing workshops for children and teachers in a Nairobi orphan home.

Barn Four the Band to See

Barn Four (of previous Bread Loaf Coffeehouse fame) is taking their show on the road. They'll be performing an extended set (new songs, new instruments, and new faces, including Alex Levin on piano!) on Friday, August 3 at 7:30 at Brandon's Ball & Chain Café (on the second floor of the Briggs Carriage Bookstore). The band adds that "rumors around campus are saying that Jim Maddox plans to do a stirring rendition of the classic 'Poor Ellen Smith,' which he stubbornly insists was originally penned by Joseph Battell. The whole night should prove, well...experimental. But fun – bushels of fun!"

Best of the Verse

Congratulations to the winners of this year's Robert Haiduke Poetry Contest. First prize went to Jennifer Greene in Asheville for "Cedars," second prize to Thomas Truelove in Vermont for "New Brunswick Salmon Fisheries," and honorable mentions to Sarah Grenert (Asheville) for "War Poem," Kellam Ayres (Vermont) for "Goldfish," and Michael Yeakey (Vermont) for "Parked by the Side of a Michigan Road."

Get Hitched This Weekend

Tomorrow's film, the Hitchcock masterpiece *Rear Window*, tells the story of a wheelchair-bound photographer (Jimmy Stewart) who peeps into his neighbors' private lives to while away the days of his convalescence and becomes entangled in what he believes are suspicious goings-on in the apartment across the way. *Rear Window* starts at 9:00, but get there by 8:45 for a few remarks about the film from Professor Jonathan Freedman. He's a Hitchcock expert and something of a collector as well, although his recent plan to buy 10,000 birds and train them to perch on his house was protested by the Ann Arbor Sensible Citizens' Council and nixed by family CFO Sara Blair.

(The *Crumb*'s flotilla of lawyers feel compelled to add that this article's headline should not, despite its being phrased in the imperative, be construed as a mandate for all students not already legally conjoined to enter into wedlock. The *Crumb* disclaims any responsibility for paying for flower arrangements, mini baked Bries in puff pastry, mariachi bands, appearances at the reception by the Milwaukee Brewers Racing Sausages, or any other incidental expense arising from precipitate nuptials.)

Orr the River and Through the Woods

Apparently, Charlie Orr's mother expected that the 5K Fun Run named in memory of her son would be run for a few years, then gradually dwindle and disappear as Charlie's friends graduated. I guess she didn't fully understand Bread Loafers' loyalty to a good cause, respect for tradition, and love of jogging, because this Saturday we'll run the 23rd (!) Annual Charlie Orr Memorial 5K Fun Run, starting from John's Pond at 9:30. Charlie is still remembered by the professors who knew him while he was here in the early 1980's as a true Southern gentleman, a good friend, and a devoted Bread Loafer; the two scholarships endowed by the fund in his name speak to how beloved he was and how missed he still is. Come honor his memory by participating in the Fun Run this weekend.

You Have a Nice Car; Let's Let Her Ride w/You

Jonathan Fried needs to hire someone to pick up his mother from the Port Henry train station next Saturday afternoon (August 4th). The station is about forty minutes away, and Jonathan's offering \$50 plus gas for chauffeur service. Jonathan adds that his mother does not need a stretch Humvee; any car will do. You will not be required to wear a silly hat or any other livery, nor will you have to stand stock-still on the platform holding a placard reading "Jonathan's Mom." Send Jonathan a note via campus mail or BreadNet if you can help him out.

Wining Encouraged as Paper Deadlines Near

The residents of Tamarack cordially invite all Bread Loafers to a wine and chocolate sunset soiree tomorrow night, starting at 7 p.m. Here's hoping that rosy-fingered Dawn gets her trumpy sister Sunset to cooperate and bathe Tamarack in glorious golden hues for the festivities.

Front Desk Has Everything You Need

You may pick up any/all of the following at the Front Desk:

1. School photos. These you have to pay for but are well worth the price for the memories and potential collectible value. For example, a 1984 faculty photo on which Lucy Maddox gave Richard Brodhead devil's horns, missing teeth, and glasses and wrote "Check out Dunder-head! Ha, ha, ha," was recently purchased for \$23,000 by an anonymous buyer in the Duke University Office of the President.
2. *Henry IV* tickets. These are free and still available for all five nights of the run, so ignore the shady characters lingering on the Inn porch muttering "Need two? Who needs two for Pirandello?"
3. Packages, if you've received a slip in your box. Check Peter Newton for crumbs around the mouth if he hands you an obviously opened care package and tries to pin its condition on the incompetence of the White River Junction sorting center.

You're Gonna Party Like It's 1799

Sorina Higgins writes, "You are cordially invited to an Old-Fashioned Dance. Come and learn the Virginia Reel, some English Country Dances (think Jane Austen), ragtime, and maybe some square and/or contra. Thursday, 3 August 2007, 7:30 pm in the Barn. Attire is casual, formal, or costume as you prefer. Please sign up outside the dining hall starting tomorrow; attendance is limited to ensure balanced dance sets."

Coleridge Question Stumpeth Two of Three

Yesterday's *Crumb* was awash in a sea of headlines that could have been clues to yesterday's trivia question. Of a trio of Bread Loafers who zeroed in on the headline that included "Lyrical Ballads," only Rachel Bradbury guessed, inferred, or downright knew that Samuel Taylor Coleridge had a teacher who frowned on lofty abstraction when concrete, down-to-earth images presented themselves. Of course it was Coleridge, you're thinking, with his touch for the quotidian – after all, there's hardly a day you don't run across an ancient mariner, an Eolian harp, or a lime-tree bower.

You'll find clues to the title of today's work and the home of its author embedded somewhere in today's headlines. You know who to contact and how if you're smugly confident you know the answer.

The Man Without a Country

The *Crumb* Bum has not yet received any submissions for this week's list of the **Top Ten Titles of Country-Western Songs About Bread Loaf**. He's not particularly worried, though, since the radio silence is obviously a sign that all constituencies are throwing all academic obligations aside and slaving day and night to perfect the wording of their entries for inclusion in tomorrow's list.

And how's this for additional incentive? Barn Four will write music and lyrics for whichever title is #1 on this week's Top Ten list, then world-premiere the song at their August 3 concert at the Ball & Chain in Brandon.

The Crumb

The Daily Bulletin of the Bread Loaf School of English in Vermont

Volume 88, Number 23

Friday, July 27, 2007

Trivia

What industry gave us the words "cliché" and "stereotype"?

Events

Friday

Tamarack Wine & Chocolate 7:00

Jonathan Freedman Discusses *Rear Window* 8:45
Rear Window 9

Saturday

Charlie Orr 5K Fun Run 9:30, John's Pond

Suppressed Desires 9-2

Sunday

Madrigalists 4-6
Blue Parlor 7:30

Sexual Orientation Discussion 9:00

Dinner

Spinach salad, bbq chicken, burgers, ribs, teriyaki portobellos, corn on the cob, s'mores, watermelon.

Weather

Today:
Isolated storms, 82/61.

Weekend:
Scattered storms both days, highs around 75.

Kindergarten of Eden at Tomorrow's Suppressed Desires

Although we certainly don't promise (or desire) any return to innocence, tomorrow night the Barn will become a Paradise Regained of youthful pleasures during the "Infantile Regression" Suppressed Desires dance. Come in costume and look for kiddie-themed decorations, games, and prizes throughout the night. The Director's Assistants have made one important concession to adult urges: when it's "snack time" the Barn Bar will *not* be handing out graham crackers and juice. DJ's Kate McKenna and Jon Freeman will spoil you rotten with great dance music, and you get to stay up *way* past your bedtime – all the way until 2 a.m.

Yonder Window Breaks Study Routine

If you go to *Rear Window* tonight (Jonathan Freedman talks about the film at 8:45, with showtime scheduled for 9), don't get any ideas after watching L. B. Jeffries snooping on his neighbors. No peeping Tom would get all hot and bothered about what he or she would see through Bread Loaf windows - *ooh, yeah...that's nice...nice way to begin that sentence...don't stop now...stay right there at the desk...no, don't tilt your head so I can't see the screen...just keep typing...finish that sentence... you know you want to, baby...oh, yeah, here we go...ooh, a semicolon!...Frisky...I like that...C'mon, let me see you use a double dash here...*

Orr, He Was A Jolly Good Fellow

Ask any of the professors who knew Charlie Orr when he was a Bread Loaf student in the early 1980's, and they'll tell you what a wonderful person he was and how saddened they were by his untimely death. His memory lives on, however, in the Charlie Orr scholarships and in tomorrow's Charlie Orr Memorial 5K Fun Run/Jog/Walk. Meet at John's Pond at 9:30 to head down 125, around the Frost Trail, and back to John's Pond at as breakneck or leisurely a pace as you choose.

You'll Feel Blue on Sunday

But by 7:30, you'll be all better and ready to head to the Blue Parlor to hear Christopher Dickinson, Carrie Jewell, David Wandera, and Mark Elberfeld read their original work. Audience members will find the readings and refreshments the perfect civilized antidote to the previous evening's childish excesses.

Sunset Gives Tamarack Rosé Hue

Enjoy tonight's sunset from the best vantage point on campus – the Tamarack porch. Everyone is invited to join the residents for a wine and chocolate soiree starting at 7:00. In the event of rain, it will be a no less enjoyable "wine and chocolate by the fireplace" gathering. For those who haven't explored Bread Loaf's remoter corners, Tamarack is the white manor overlooking the Bread Loaf grounds from the eastern side of the field.

Going for Wait Dough

Heather Adams is looking for a substitute to cover her Waitstaff duties for the Senior Banquet on August 11th. You will be paid. If you can help Heather out, please email her at heather.brook@aol.com.

Oh Henry: IV Nights Still Have Seats Left

Remember to pick up your tickets for Pirandello's *Henry IV* at the Front Desk before they completely vanish. Saturday's already fully booked, but a couple of dozen seats remain for the other four performances. Those will undoubtedly disappear soon, so if you've already picked up tickets you now find yourself unable to use, please return them to the Front Desk for redistribution to deserving wait-listers.

The Powell and the Glory

Faculty member Patricia Powell, the author of the novels *A Small Gathering of Bones*, *The Pagoda*, and *Me Dying Trial*, presents the final Barn reading of the summer on Monday at 7:30. Paule Marshall has called Patricia "one of the most gifted voices among the new generation of writers from the English-speaking Caribbean," and Belles Lettres named Patricia "a major voice in Caribbean literature." Don't miss the chance to hear Patricia's work firsthand. A reception at Treman will follow.

Have a Reel Good Time

Sorina Higgins will be leading an entertaining evening of old-fashioned dances next Thursday at 7:30 in the Barn. She'll teach you the Virginia Reel and some English country dances (very, very handy to know, in case Mr. B-----, who has a stately mansion in -----shire, asks you during the Senior Prom if he "might have this quadrille").

There may also be time to do some ragtime and maybe some square and/or contra. Attire is as casual, formal, or costumed as you prefer. Because Sorina needs an exact count to ensure balanced dance sets, you should sign up outside the Dining Hall if you plan to attend.

One for the Road

Rachel Bradbury, the Christerical Duo, Liz Bedell, and Bradley Hoffman all gave what they (and the *Crumb* Bum) thought was the correct answer to yesterday's trivia question. Turns out, however, that the \$545,100 the manuscript of *The Scarlet Letter* fetched at auction pales in comparison to the \$2.4 million Indianapolis Colts owner James Irsay shelled out for the manuscript of *On the Road*. It's only because Kurt Broderson supplied this answer with a minimum of smarmy gloating at having caught the *Crumb* Bum in error that I mention his name here without vitriol.

Entering the Home Stretch

Kate McKenna sends word that the last yoga class will be next Tuesday, at 5 in Barn 1 as usual.

Country-Western Canon

Professors noticing a sudden and unforeseen drop in the quality of their students' writing this week should chalk it up to the fact that everyone obviously spent all their time coming up with phenomenal ideas for one outstanding list, the

Top Ten (And A Whole Bunch More) Titles of Country-Western Songs About Bread Loaf

29. Friends in Loaf Places (WS)
28. I Scan The Line (WS)
27. Take This Book And Shove It (I Ain't Writin' This No More) (EMS)
26. Met a Faerie Queen at the Dairy Queen (AS)
25. She Thinks My Gator's Sexy (DA)
24. There's No Copyright on My Love for You (BB)
23. Bubba Shot The O.E.D. (MY)
22. Out of State, Out of Mind (IYF)
21. My Storyteller's Always Been Jack Daniels (AS)
20. I Gave Her My Heart, She Gave Me a B- (DA)
19. She's Ready, She's Willin', But I've Got Those Empty Laundry Bucket Blues (EMS)
18. Your Historically Contextualizing Heart (LP)
17. You Said Your Heart Was On Reserve, But When I Checked The Shelf Was Empty (IYF)
16. "Troubles" is Just "Bartels," Misspelled (AS)
15. You May Have Just Borrowed My Copy of *The Tempest*, But You Stole My Heart (BB)
14. He Waited On Me, And I've Been Waitin' For Him Ever Since (IYF)
13. I Thought It Was An Earthquake, But It Was Just Your Bed Upstairs (IYF)
12. I Drove Her Down to Mr. Ups and Into My Two Brothers' Arms (IYF)
11. Feelin' Like A Tongue-less Man (In A Language War) (AS)
10. He Broke My Heart at Barn East, I Cried All the Way to Larch (IYF)
9. How You Gonna Get to Heaven When You're Down in Barn East? (DA)
8. Chaucer Don't Make Sense (Now That I Quit Drinkin') (AS)
7. You Wouldn't Even Pay Ten Cents To Print Me A Note Goodbye (IYF)
6. All My Exes Are Existentialists (MY)
5. That's My Unreliable Narration And I'm Sticking To It (MY)
4. They Say She's A Lying Tramp, I Say She's A Lying Tramp (WS)
3. I Ordered a Hot Meal (So Why'd the Wait Staff Bring Me Will?) (AS)
2. It's Late July, But I Ain't That Lonely Yet (DA)
1. I Took the Road Less Traveled, Cause It's the Farthest One from You (IYF)

Current Standings: Director's Assistants (DA) 24, Inn Your Face (IYF) 23, Apple Seedlings (AS) 22, Larch Porch (LP) 11, Boys of Barn East (BOBE) 9, Michael Yeakey (MY) 8, Waitstaff (WS) 8, Exiles on Main Street (EMS) 7, Warren Wights (WW) 5, Bloomfield Beauties (BB) 5, Oxford Assistants (OXA) 4, Jessica Horner (JH) 1.

DJ's to Play Songs of Innocence, Experience

Our Suppressed Desires may come out tomorrow night, but because deep down we'll always be English scholars, tomorrow's dance will feature only music represented in the *Norton Anthology of Song Lyrics: Gregorian Chants to P-Diddy*. The editors uncovered some surprising, previously unpublished work from major poets:

Emily Dickinson, "814"

I am -- a Model -- you know what I Mean -- and
I do -- my little Turn -- on the Catwalk --
I Shake -- my little Tush -- on the Catwalk --
I am -- Too sexy -- for my Love --
Too Sexy -- for my Love -- Love's going -- to leave Me --
And I am -- too Sexy -- for This Song --

Anne Bradstreet, from *The Uncensored Prologue*

I am obnoxious to each carping tongue
Who says my hand a needle better fits,
A Poet's pen all scorn I should thus wrong,
For such despite they cast on Female wits.
Indeed, I say, this is my sh*t,
Women should all stomp their feet like this.
Several times have I been round that track,
So it will not, I fear, transpire like that.
Because I ain't no hollaback Girl,
I ain't no hollaback Girl.

e.e. cummings, "laid"

fought
with | kitchenknives and
(skew) ers
dressed me up! (in women
's clothes)
messed a r ou nd with
(gender) ?! roles
die my i's
and call me prettaaayyyye
heeeeeeee eeeeeee
eeeeee heeeeeeeeeee eeeee

Robert Frost, "Acquainted With The Night" (early draft)

I have been one acquainted with the night.
I have walked out in rain -- and back in rain.
I have outwalked the furthest city light.

Then I get night fever, night fever.
We know how to do it.
Give me that night fever, night fever.
We know how to show it.

Walt Whitman, "It Is The End of the World!"

What I find is great is that it starts with an earthquake,
Birds and snakes and aeroplanes (and Lenny Bruce is not afraid).
Eye of a hurricane! Listen to yourself churn!
World serves its own needs! Dummy serve your own needs!
Feed it off an knock, speed, grunt, no, strength, no, ladder starts to
clatter with fear! Fight! Down! Height!
Wire in a fire, representing seven games,
(And a government for hire at a combat site).
Left of west and coming, in a hurry, with the Furies breathing down
your neck!
Team by team reporters baffled, trumped, tethered, cropped;
Look at that low playing. (Fine, then.)
Uh oh, overflow, population, common food, but it will do to save
yourself, serve yourself, world serves its own needs.
Listen to your heart bleed! Dummy! With the rapture, and the revered
and the right! (Right.)
You vitriolic! Patriotic! Slam! Fight! Bright light!
(I'm feeling pretty psyched.)
It's the end of the world as we know it, and I feel fine.

The Crumbudgeon

The Daily Bulletin of the Bread Loaf School of English in Vermont

Volume 88, Number 24

Monday, July 30, 2007

Trivia

Faulkner and Morrison are the only authors chosen for Oprah's Book Club three times. Name one of the

two other authors who have been chosen twice.

Events

Madrigalists
5:00, Barn

Patricia Powell Reads
7:30, Barn

Reception
Afterwards,
Treman

Dinner

Grilled chicken
panzanella or
barley risotto
cakes with
orange sauce;
summer sautéed
vegetables; vine
tomatoes &
greens; dessert
TBA.

Weather

Today:
Mostly sunny,
80/54.

Tomorrow:
Isolated storms,
80/53.

Wednesday:
Mostly sunny,
81/57.

Powell-Hungry Students Flock to Barn Tonight for Last Faculty Reading

Patricia Powell, famous here as a Fiction Writing instructor and acclaimed in the wider world for her work, will read tonight in the Barn at 7:30. Patricia, the author of the novels *Me Dying Trial*, *A Gathering of Small Bones*, and *The Pagoda*, has been consistently identified as a major voice in Caribbean literature and commended for powerfully addressing issues of gender, race, and sexuality in her writing. Patricia has been the recipient of a Lila-Wallace *Readers Digest* Writers' Award and a finalist for the *Granta*/Best of Young American Novelists Award, and her reading promises to be one of the summer's major events.

A Word about the Crumbudgeon

The Crumbudgeon is cranky. It's Monday. The Crumbudgeon stayed late at Suppressed Desires and is still on the mend. The Crumbudgeon got up on the wrong side of the bed this morning. The blueberries ran out just before the Crumbudgeon got to the front of the line. Wimpy decaf is all that's left in the Barn. The professors, knowing that the Crumbudgeon actually never finished his M.A., refer to him as "Crumby the Dummy" behind his back. You get the picture. If the Crumbudgeon's bitter rantings get you down, tough patootie.

Holding Fourth

If you wait until the last minute to get your *Henry IV* tickets (still available at the Front Desk) and find them all sold out, don't come crying to me. You'll have to show up when the house opens, put on your best pouty face, and hope that Travis Farrell gives you one of the unclaimed seats just before curtain. And since no one gets to *reserve* a great seat except the ushers, you should see Travis if you're interested in helping out. Get your Henry Fours straight, too. This one's the Holy Roman Emperor, not the English king Shakespeare wrote about. Gee whiz, if they're not teaching eleventh-century European history in the schools these days, what *are* they teaching?

Absence Makes This Fart Go Ponder

Sometimes I wonder what this newfangled world is coming to. First no one knew the answer to Friday's trivia question – "stereotype" and "cliché" are printing terms. And then that smarty-pants mechanic can't even figure out how to get my trusty ol' jitney running. You turn the crank, goldarnit!

No Yoga

Kate McKenna says here that she can't lead Power Yoga tomorrow at 5 – and that her busy schedule means there won't be any more sessions this summer. No skin off my nose, though – what with my rheumatism acting up these days, I can barely reach far enough to scratch myself, much less twist myself into one of those human pretzels.

Fussing about Friday's Film

Better Off Dead? My thoughts exactly. Now that's a film I can relate to. (And don't tell me not to end my sentences with prepositions. I'll end my sentences any way I want to.) What's that? It's not about some cranky geezer wishing he could shuffle off the ol' mortal coil? It's a 1980's movie about crazy adolescents? Oh, *there's* something that's never been done before. *Better Off Dead?* That's what I'll be thinking if I have to sit through it. There's no accounting for taste, though, so go if you want. See if I care. I'll be watching *Grumpy Old Men* again.

Make Mine an Old-Fashioned

Back in my day, the only places you could hurl yourself all over the place the way you did at that godawful Suppressed Desires racket the other night were loony bins and revival meetings. If you come to your senses and decide you want to learn how to dance like ladies and gentlemen, in ways that won't send Sister Agatha around the bend, sign up outside the Dining Hall for Sorina Higgins' Old-Fashioned Dance class on Thursday night.

Denks for Nothing

I don't care how happy everyone is that Bo Bo Denk will return to play at this week's dance – I still say that that's no kind of name for a band! A band name should tell you who it is you're listening to, and how many of 'em there are. "The Dave Clark Five," that's a band name. Even when bands today try to keep it simple, they end up messing it up. Like "Ben Folds Five." Ben folds five *what*, for criminy's sake?

I won't be there anyway, because by the time they start playing – after the play, about 10 or so – sensible folk like me are all in bed. Have a blast. The world's going to hell in a handbasket anyway, so I don't see what difference three more hours of ruckus will make.

Mail Chauvinist

Ed Brown tells me that you can no longer use stamps on any mail weighing more than 13 ounces. Guess that puts the kibosh on using stamps for all the packages of bonbons I've been sending that looker Bea Arthur.

Proofreading Protest

When I first heard that former Bread Loafer and current University of Mainz grad student Julia Hillenbrand is writing her master's thesis on African-American women, I wondered what the hey that has to do with me? Then I decided I was just being crotchety and thought, good for her. *Then* I heard that she's looking for an English native speaker to proofread her work (about 100 pages). Oh, sure, I thought – like I don't have anything better to do in my free time than help someone out of the goodness of my heart. And *then* I heard that she's offering fair payment in exchange for this service, and I decided she was a pretty good sort after all. (Why my family says my new medication causes mood swings is beyond me.) Anyway, if you are interested in helping her out, send an e-mail to julia.hillenbrand@t-online.de.

Soccer Sulker

This has "international incident" written all over it, if you ask me. This Friday the "English soccer team" (Bread Loaf students) will be taking on Team Spain from the Middlebury Language School. The game will start at 4:30 at the Middlebury field. Come and watch and lend your support. Also, Chris Bottomly reminds the soccer team to please come see him at lunch today to give him their t-shirt sizes. He needs to get them all in today to have them ready for the game. The cost will be no more than \$15.

Illustrations for the Illiterate

Some of you have been complaining that the *Crumb* has lots of words in it and is hard to read. Ordinarily I'd say boo-hoo to you, but it just so happens I have some illustrations of Bread Loaf life that will give you a pretty picture to look at if your poor little brain hurts. Want to thank the artist? Tough luck – he or she would prefer to remain anonymous.

Costume Complaint

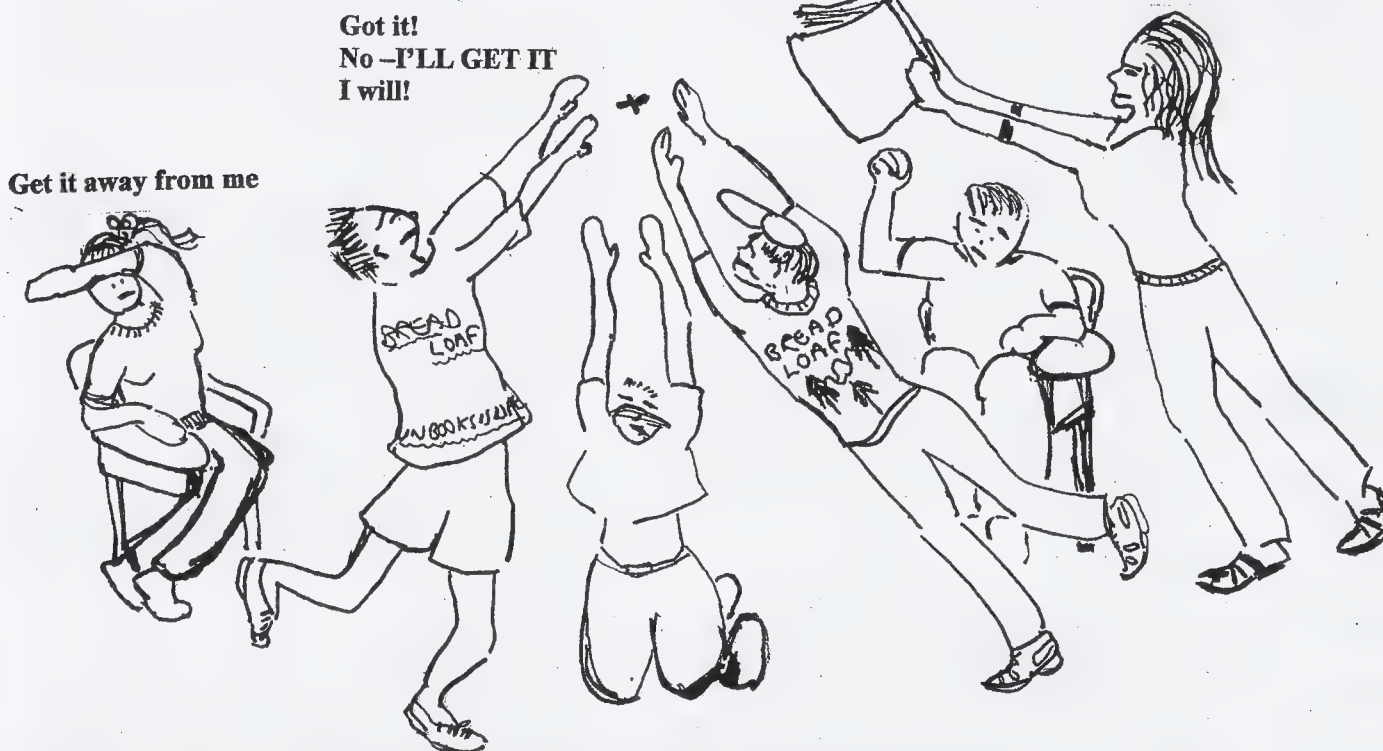
Sara Blair sent me an email saying "Miriam would much appreciate it if you could put the following in the *Crumb*: 'At the Suppressed Desires dance, I lost my Chinese hairsticks [lacquered, reddish glorified chopsticks] and my samurai sword [plastic model but much beloved]. If anyone finds them I would be very happy to have them back. Thank you.'" Now, Miriam's cute as a button and sharp as far as kids go, but don't those parenthetical addenda seem just a *mite* polished for a seven-year-old? Now I understand why Miriam's teacher was suspicious about Miriam's work this year, which included a project on dolphins with 31 pages of endnotes and a book report on *Mr. Popper's Penguins* that cited Benjamin and Vygotksy.

Ingrate Expectations

I always held that those Top Ten competitions were a silly waste of time, but this week that *Crumb* Bum feller might be on to something. He tells me he wants the **Top Ten Worst Senior Class Gift Ideas** – and I sure could tell him a thing or two about unwanted gifts. Take last Christmas, for instance. I gave each of my grandchildren a crisp new twenty-dollar bill, and what did I get in return? A sweater the color of stuff I blow into my handkerchief, and some mess that my six-year-old granddaughter Lucy calls "a picture of me." I may be nearsighted, but last time I looked in the mirror I didn't have a head twelve times the size of my body or toothpick legs about eight feet long. Her parents say she won a prize at the school art fair last year, but I didn't know they gave prizes for "Sorriest Excuse for Something That Looks Like Anything" these days.

Next time, I told 'em all, get me something I really need, like a good strong laxative. Or a hooker.

**Murder most foul with
a work of great literature**



SCENES OF BREAD LOAF LIFE

A deer fly alert brings out different impulses in the class

Crumlet

The Tragedy of the Bread Loaf School of English in Vermont

Volume 88, Number 25

Tuesday, July 31, 2007

Trivia

In Kenneth Branagh's first season with the Royal Shakespeare Company, he played Henry V – and what role in Hamlet?

Events

Henry IV Tickets
Going fast,
Front Desk

Queer/Queer-Friendly Table
6:00, Dining Hall

Documentary Films
7-8, Barn 1

Dinner

Crispy
parmesan-
crusted haddock
with mashed
potatoes or
gnocchi; mixed
vegetable sauté;
apple butter
pumpkin pie.

Weather

Today:
Mostly sunny,
80/54.

Tomorrow:
Sunny,
80/56.

Wednesday:
Sunny,
88/63.

The News, Bounded in a Nutshell

- Queer and queer-friendly table tonight at dinner.
- A video crew is on campus today filming footage for Middlebury's website.
- "New Media and the Teaching of Writing" documentary films in Barn 1 tonight, 7-8.
- Only a few *Henry IV* tickets remain. Travis Farrell is looking for 3-4 ushers for each night. You should already have a ticket for the night you can usher.
- 5:00 informational meetings about Santa Fe (Th.), Asheville (Mon.), and Oxford (next Tues.).
- A ride board will be posted outside the Dining Hall for others who need, or can provide, transportation to local airports next week.
- School of English vs. School of Spanish in soccer – 4:30 Friday, Middlebury fields.
- Barn Four to play at the Ball & Chain Café in Brandon on Friday at 9.
- Bo Bo Denk plays at Saturday's dance (10-1).
- Old-Fashioned Dance time changed to Sunday at 8. Sign up outside the Dining Hall.

The Condensed Play: Act 1, Scene 1

BERNARDO Who's there?

FRANCISCO Bernardo?

BERNARDO 'Tis now struck six; get thee to dinner.

FRANCISCO Awfully dark for six, isn't it? I mean, you couldn't even see me!

BERNARDO Ssshhh!! Don't wreck the dramatic tension by pointing out obvious implausibilities.

FRANCISCO Oh, right. For this relief much thanks: I wanted to sit at the **Queer/Queer-Friendly Table tonight**. I don't think I ever told you that I'm gay.

BERNARDO That's great!

FRANCISCO Well, Denmark's always been known for its progressive policies regarding sexual orientation. In fact, its 1989 "registreret partnerskab" law was the world's first official recognition of civil unions.

BERNARDO Wow!

Act 1, Scene 2

LAERTES I want to go to Paris.

CLAUDIUS Sure thing.

HAMLET I want to go to Wittenberg.

CLAUDIUS Hmmm...how about 'no'?

HAMLET But I want to go to Wittenberg!

GERTRUDE Sweetie, stay here with momma.

HAMLET Okey-dokey. *Enter Horatio.*

HORATIO My lord, I think I saw your father's ghost!

HAMLET How? You aren't in the condensed Scene 1!

HORATIO I mean, my lord, someone told me they saw your father's ghost! Let's watch for it tonight.

HAMLET Cool! It's like we're in *Scooby-Doo*!

Act 1, Scene 3

POLONIUS How are you getting to Paris?

LAERTES Flying. Dad, I gotta go...I'll miss my flight!

POLONIUS Did you **check the board outside the Dining Hall to see if anyone needs a ride to the airport?**

LAERTES Sure did. Any other valuable advice, Pop?

POLONIUS Look, it's *Paris*! Wine, women, and song! Have a blast. Here's my MasterCard. Don't skimp. Especially on the women.

LAERTES Gee, thanks, Dad! *Exit.*

OPHELIA What was that?

POLONIUS Reverse psychology. Worth a shot.

Act 2, Scene 1

LORD POLONIUS What do you read, my lord?

HAMLET Words, words, words.

LORD POLONIUS What is the matter, my lord?

HAMLET What's the matter? **Val Benka says that Oprah's chosen Wally Lamb and Jane Hamilton twice for her book club** – but never Shakespeare? What gives?

POLONIUS My lord, it is tough to get him to do interviews.

HAMLET Yeah, but *Wally Lamb*? He wrote *I Know This Much Is True* – and I'm smart enough to know that I don't know whether *anything's* true! So how intelligent can he be?

POLONIUS Also *She's Come Undone*.

HAMLET Ophelia? Already?

Act 2, Scene 2

HAMLET Why did you laugh then, when I said 'man delights not me'?

ROSENCRANTZ To think, my lord, if you delight not in man, what lenten entertainment **Tim Dorsey and the documentary makers in "New Media and The Teaching of Writing"** shall receive from you: we coted them on the way; and hither are they coming, to offer you **three ten-minute films tonight from 7-8 in Barn 1**.

HAMLET Are any of them about how to cope with deep-seated Oedipal anxiety?

ROSENCRANTZ I don't think so.

HAMLET Still, sounds interesting. Let's go! *Exeunt.*

Act 3, Scene 1

HAMLET To Bo, or not to Bo: that is the question:

Whether 'tis nobler in the mind to suffer

The slings and arrows of outrageous paper assignments,

Or blow off work and get a C of trouble?

Easy. **I'll go hear Bo Bo Denk this Saturday in the Barn, For they were great last year.**

Soft you now, the fair Ophelia!

OPHELIA Finished already? Seemed quicker than usual.

My lord, I have remembrances of yours,

That I have longed long to re-deliver;

I pray you, now receive them.

HAMLET No, not I; I never gave you aught.

OPHELIA My honour'd lord, you know right well you did; And what a bunch of crap! I mean, who gives a girl a socket set? What's romantic about a wind-up Mayor McCheese you got out of a Happy Meal? The only thing these are good

for is as entries for the **Top Ten Worst Senior Class Gift Ideas!** You've been cheating on me, haven't you?

HAMLET *What?* Who with? My mother's the only other woman around, and that's a whole other psychodrama I got going on there.

OPHELIA I know you're cheating on me!

HAMLET You're crazy!

OPHELIA Not yet.

HAMLET Ah, get thee to a nunnery. Preferably one that does the whole "vow of silence" thing.

Act 3, Scene 2

CLAUDIUS What do you call the play?

HAMLET **Pirandello's Henry IV. It runs Wednesday-Sunday.**

CLAUDIUS I thought you said it was *The Mouse-Trap*.

HAMLET Apparently this company doesn't take requests.

CLAUDIUS Well, what's this one about?

HAMLET A guy who thinks he's the Holy Roman Emperor.

CLAUDIUS Did Henry IV kill his brother?

HAMLET Not that I know of.

CLAUDIUS Or marry his widow?

HAMLET Uh-uh.

CLAUDIUS He must pop in between th'election and the son's hopes!

O, my offense is rank; it smells to heaven! *Exit.*

HAMLET That was surprisingly easy. Hi there, Guildenstern!

GUILDENSTERN Good thing I **showed up at 8:30 even though I didn't have a ticket for Henry IV – because you never know when an empty seat will suddenly become available.** The King, sir –

HAMLET Ay, what of him?

GUILDENSTERN Is in his retirement marvelous distempered.

HAMLET That was fast. Will you play upon this pipe?

GUILDENSTERN My lord, I cannot.

HAMLET How about this oboe? Or this glockenspiel here?

GUILDENSTERN You're kidding, right? Where'd you get those?

HAMLET Never mind. What about this guitar?

GUILDENSTERN Now you're talking! I play guitar in a band, **Barn Four, and we're playing in Brandon on Friday at 9!**

HAMLET Ooh! I'll be there. *(Aside)* And later I'll have you killed.

GUILDENSTERN You'll what now?

HAMLET Hey, no fair! That was an aside! It clearly says "Aside"!!

Act 3, Scenes 3-4

HAMLET Now might I do it pat, now he is praying; and now I'll do't. VIDEO CREW Could you hang on a second and let us get set up before you "do't," whatever "it" is?

HAMLET Well, it's kind of an impulse thing...

VIDEO CREW Yeah, but we're **visiting today to get some footage of the campus**, so just go ahead and do what you were going to do.

CLAUDIUS Hey, Hamlet! What's going on?

HAMLET Oh, nothing. I was just on my way to...see Mom. *Exit.*

HAMLET Now, mother, what's the matter?

GERTRUDE Hamlet, thou hast thy father much offended.

HAMLET Mother, you have my father much offended.

VIDEO CREW Cut. Cut! Could we try that emotional moment again – but without all the subtext? Just tell us what you're really thinking – it'll make things clearer for potential applicants. And sir – yes, you there – could you come out from behind that arras and get in the shot?

HAMLET Polonius! What were you doing back there, you scamp?

POLONIUS Um...well...my lord, I do confess, I am found out.

The Hide-and-Seek contest is o'er; and you have won.

HAMLET I knew it! In your *face*!

Act 4, Scenes 1-6

CLAUDIUS Now, Hamlet, where's Polonius?

HAMLET At supper.

CLAUDIUS At supper! Where?

HAMLET Not where he eats, but where he is eaten: a certain convocation of politic worms are e'en at him.

CLAUDIUS Is that part of *Fear Factor: Denmark*?

HAMLET No, he killed himself for losing the Hide-and-Seek contest.

CLAUDIUS Well, anyway, the bark is ready, and the wind at help, The associates tend, and every thing is bent for New Mexico.

HAMLET For New Mexico! How? It hasn't been discovered yet!
CLAUDIUS Beats me, but they're having an **informational meeting about the Santa Fe campus Thursday at 5.** How about Asheville?
HAMLET Same problem! We're in, like, the eighth century here!
CLAUDIUS Regardless, there's **another meeting about North Carolina on Monday at 5.** Let's see...for England?
HAMLET For England! Good! That's more like it!
CLAUDIUS But first, go to the **Oxford meeting next Tuesday at 5.**
HAMLET OK! Lucky for me, we're already speaking English!
CLAUDIUS Yeah, I've always found that odd about this kingdom.

Act 4, Scene 7

GERTRUDE Your sister's drown'd, Laertes.

LAERTES Drown'd! O, where?

GERTRUDE *Where?* What does that have to do with anything?

LAERTES Is that willow tree still growing aslant the brook?

GERTRUDE That's not important right now!

LAERTES What was she wearing? Don't tell me it was that billowy old thing – I always warned her that mermaid-like, awhile it'd bear her up but eventually grow heavy with its drink...

GERTRUDE Focus!

LAERTES Sorry...OK, how about 'O, why?'

GERTRUDE Because she **waited too long to get Henry IV tickets, and they were sold out! There are only a dozen or so left!!!**

LAERTES So *that's* why we're considered a tragedy!

GERTRUDE You haven't read Act 5 yet, have you?

LAERTES No – is it exciting? Do I get the girl? I get the girl, right?

GERTRUDE I'm the only one left! You have someone else in mind?

LAERTES Well, I'm sure one will show up.

Act 5, Scene 2

HAMLET I miss anything while I was away in Act 4?

LAERTES Ophelia's dead.

HAMLET Bummer. My fault?

LAERTES Looks that way.

HAMLET Right. The usual, then?

LAERTES Rock-em Sock-em Robots? I call blue!

HAMLET No, you moron. Rapiers!

LAERTES Whatever floats your boat.

HAMLET Come on, sir.

LAERTES Come, my lord. *They play.*

SORINA HIGGINS Wait a second! No one's playing with swords while I'm here! Someone's going to lose an eye! Why don't we do some nice **old-fashioned dancing on Sunday night** instead? I'll teach you some English country dances.

HAMLET Ah! Do you mean country matters? *(Winks.)*

SORINA That's enough of you and your double entendres.

HAMLET *(chastened)* Yes, ma'am. Sorry, ma'am.

LAERTES See, Gertrude, I *told* you another girl would show up!

SORINA You shut up. Now, then – let's have a nice little square here. Hamlet, I'll be your partner, and the King and Queen can dance together. One, two...off we go!

Act 5, Scene 2 (later)

HAMLET O, I die, Horatio!

HORATIO I'm still trying to figure out how old-fashioned dancing could kill you, Laertes, your mother, and the King! By the way, did we ever see your father's ghost?

HAMLET Apparently not. Why does the drum come hither? *March within. Enter the Spanish School soccer team, and others.*

SPANISH SOCCER CAPTAIN What is this sight? We're supposed to **play soccer against you guys at 4:30 on Friday!**

HORATIO What happened to Fortinbras and the team from Norway?

SPANISH SOCCER CAPTAIN We beat them in the semifinals last week. Say, what gives? You guys don't have anywhere *near* eleven players – well, not eleven *living* players, from what I can see.

AMBASSADOR The sight is dismal; oh, and by the way, Rosencrantz and Guildenstern are dead.

HORATIO Our entire starting backfield! There's no hope!

Give me that cup again. *He drinks and dies. Alarum.*

AMBASSADOR So *that's* what an alarum sounds like! I never knew.

The Crumb

The Daily Bulletin of the Bread Loaf School of English in Vermont

Volume 88, Number 26

Wednesday, August 1, 2007

Trivia

On July 14, 1930, Luigi Pirandello's play *The Man with the Flower in His Mouth* became the first drama to be presented how?

Events

Director's Reception
5:00, West Lawn

Madrigalists Rehearsal
7:00, Barn

Madrigalists Performance
8:00, East Lawn

Henry IV
8:30, Theatre

Dinner

Indian curried lamb with vegetables or green curry vegetables; sticky rice; cheesecake.

Weather

Today:
Mostly sunny,
81/56.

Tomorrow:
Sunny,
88/61.

Friday:
Some storms,
82/56.

King of the Hills: Pirandello's *Henry IV* Opens Tonight

It's unclear to what extent the title character of Luigi Pirandello's magnificent *Henry IV* is mad or sane, but one diagnosis is simple: You're crazy if you don't go. The Bread Loaf Acting Ensemble, under the direction of Alan MacVey, will present *Henry IV* tonight through Sunday at 8:30, immediately following the Madrigalists' short performance outside the Theatre. The run is completely sold out, but you can still put your name on the wait list for your preferred night and hope that kind souls with unwanted tickets will return them to the Front Desk for redistribution. Alternately, you can show up a bit before 8:30 and see if any seats go unclaimed.

Travis Farrell is still looking for 3-4 volunteer ushers for each night of the show. This important but minimally taxing position comes with one very big perk – ushers are the only ones who can reserve the seat of their choice before the house opens.

And on nights you're not attending the play, please note that lit candles outside the Theatre mean that the production's underway; be sure to pass by quietly.

Throng Song

Arriving at the Theatre early tonight not only enables you to situate yourself close to the door for a strategic rush to a prime seat – it positions you perfectly to hear the Bread Loaf Madrigalists' summer concerts. They'll perform musical settings of Dylan Thomas and Ben Jonson poems, as well as a metaphor-laden song about love and peanuts, at 8:00 on the East Lawn, repeating the show, same time and place, each night of *Henry IV*'s run. Jon also reminds the Madrigalists to gather in the Barn at 7 for a quick warm-up and run-through.

Cool to Be Kind

From Jim Maddox: "This week, straddling the fifth and sixth weeks of the Bread Loaf session, was for many years known as 'field-mouse week,' because a student in the 60s was discovered out in the front meadow during this week, crawling on her hands and knees looking for fieldmice. Such forms did stress take in the 60s. All of this is to say that we are now in the most stressful days of the session. Please take care to be especially civil to those waiting on you at meals; they're under as much stress as you are and fully merit your collegiality and kindness."

Find iPod, For Lauren's Forlorn

Lauren Ketterer has lost her brand-new white video iPod, and she's understandably distraught as a result. If you find it or know its whereabouts, see Lauren in Larch 2 or inform the Front Desk.

Before You Go Round the Bend

Add the following to your "to-do" list, somewhere after "Plead for extension" and "Finish paper" but before "Watch Bread Loaf vanish in rear-view mirror":

- Turn in course and campus evaluation forms to Elaine or online.
- Turn in reenrollment forms if you plan to return in '08.
- Notify the Front Desk if you plan to leave campus before Friday, August 10.
- Visit any of Middlebury's ATM's for funds necessary to tip housekeepers and waitstaff generously.

Most Seniors Graduate with Reservations

Seniors should know that all reservations for Commencement weekend – rooms for guests and seats at Saturday night's banquet – are due with payment to Victoria by Friday. You *should* know this, but obviously you *don't*, because if you *did*, then Victoria wouldn't have to remind you. (Whoops! The Crumbudgeon seems to have gotten loose in that last sentence. I'll have him back in his cage in a jiffy – just let me get the shillelagh.)

Barn Four Plays Local Ball Room

Barn Four will be playing at Brandon's Ball & Chain Café at 7 on the 3rd (Friday). Yesterday's *Crumb* had the starting time wrong, which the *Crumb* Bum ascribes to there being simply too many numbers among the salient details – Barn 4 at 7 on the 3rd – for a math-challenged Bread Loaf like him to keep straight. Included in their set will be the world premiere of last week's champion Top Ten Bread Loaf Country-Western song, "I Took The Road Less Traveled, 'Cause It's The Farthest One From You." If the ol' ball and chain won't let you go to the Ball & Chain, or if there's some other reason you can't make it to Brandon on Friday, you'll have a second chance to hear Barn Four when they perform in the Barn on Monday night, right after David Huddle's Poetry Writing class reading.

Jim Insists that Santa Is Real

Tomorrow at 5 in Barn 1, Jim Maddox will talk about Bread Loaf's Santa Fe campus, answer any questions about the New Mexico program, and discourse on the relative merits of salt vs. no salt and on the rocks vs. frozen. He'll hold similar meetings for Asheville and Oxford next Monday and Tuesday.

Student Can't Wait, To Go Home

Add Colin McGinn to the ranks of waiters in need of a substitute for the Commencement banquet on Saturday, August 11. He has to drive back to Milwaukee by Sunday, so working is an impossibility. He's offered to pay his replacement "a hefty little sum" and will divulge the specific amount if you find him at a meal, leave him a note at the Front Desk, or drop him a line on BreadNet.

Assistants Left for Dead

Undoubtedly, some students will be down at Flatbread on Friday night, and some will be hard at work on final papers. The faithful Director's Assistants, however, will remain on campus to show *Better Off Dead* and hand out free SmartFood at 9 that night. *Better Off Dead* is a John Cusack vehicle involving ski racing, a French exchange student, a psychotic paperboy, and, as was legally required of all films made in 1985, a montage sequence set to a zippy little synthesizer number. Should you attend? Take this short test to see.

- If you're currently contemplating a caffeine IV, having spent the last four days glued to your laptop in a vain effort to coax from Microsoft Word's infernal innards something vaguely resembling a cogent critical argument, we do not recommend taking time out to see *Better Off Dead*. Depending on the degree of your desperation and the imminence of your paper's due date, you may in fact be better off dead.
- If you've quietly completed all of your work, *Better Off Dead* might be just the entertainment you need.
- If, upon completing all of your work, you crow to your friends about your newfound freedom, you will not come to *Better Off Dead*, because you will have long since been stabbed to death with Dining Hall forks.

Act Soon on Shelved Plans

The Bookstore's annual end-of-summer sale starts next Monday, featuring 20% discounts on books, clothes, and gifts. (Don't try too hard to do the math; just assume that 20% is "a lot" and save those brain cells for your 12-page paper due Monday.) Normal hours from Monday through Wednesday before Thursday's last gasp opening from 9-11.

What Can Brown Do For You?

Ed Brown becomes Mister UPS next week, coordinating all shipping of boxes and suitcases from behind the Front Desk. He'll handle your packages with care on Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday from 8-12. Whatever you bring to the Front Desk must be ready to ship (boxed, taped, and labeled); the Bookstore has a precious few boxes available to the first takers.

A Night at the Moose See-Em

Kalli Federhofer spotted two moose "separating the dark from the dark" outside Warren around 3:30 a.m. the other day. Ever helpful, Kalli says that poets are welcome to draw on this story for inspiration but should avoid the "separating the dark from the dark" line, lest they run afoul of Philip Levine and his poets' street gang, the Dactyls.



Web Site Provides Bo Bo Link

You can find out more about Bo Bo Denk, the band that'll provide the music for Saturday's Barn dance (10-1), at <http://www.andywebster.2ya.com>. Or you could just read the following, shamelessly lifted from that same website: "Many venues will not book us. This is not unusual for a band with a balding 30-year-old middle school teacher who does most of the lead singing. Nevertheless, we are big in Greenfield (population 12,000), huge in Ashfield (pop. 800), tremendous in Craftsbury Common (pop. 750), and absolutely galactic in our hometown of Hawley, Massachusetts (pop. 332). People love us because we put on a great show, clean up after ourselves with aplomb, rarely piss in the sinks, and happily autograph any body part thrust in front of us."

"Unlike the Viking raiders who terrorized Europe in the early 13th century, we ask before turning a venue into our own personal Valhalla of Groove. However, like the Viking raiders, we come by water and quickly establish a secure beachhead from which to unload our gear."

The band describes its sound as "kind of like Crosby, Stills, & Nash, only much worse, and with a female vocalist," but Bread Loafers who heard them last year will tell you that they're being way too modest and are in fact well worth hearing. As always, bring your ID for service at the Bo Bo Bar.

Branagh Part of Broad Cast, Two Knew

Liz Bedell claims to have attended the 1984 Royal Shakespeare Company production of *Hamlet* in which a 24-year-old Ken Branagh played Laertes; Ben Steinfeld, who could only have seen the '84 production on a nursery school field trip, also knew the answer and added that Branagh also played the King of Navarre in *Love's Labour's Lost* that season.

By answering yesterday's trivia question correctly, Liz and Ben move on to the Bonus Round. The question is: What was Branagh thinking when he cast Keanu Reeves in *Much Ado About Nothing* and Alicia Silverstone in *Love's Labour's Lost*? (It's a trick question; those decisions remain as inexplicable as Joseph Battell's insistence that what the world needed was a story about a little girl and a pine tree that teaches her Euclidean geometry.)

Ills Like White Elephants

Over the years, Bread Loaf has been "gifted" with several objets of dubious value — sometimes resisting those offerings successfully, as was the case with the large, abstract metal sculpture intended to be placed squarely in the meadow across from the Inn (no joke), and sometimes less successfully, as was the case with a certain piece of artwork in the Blue Parlor which shall remain unidentified here but upon which the Director's Assistants routinely heap deserved scorn during their morning meetings. (You'll know it when you see it.) Impressively, the *Crumb* anticipates that submissions to the **Top Ten Worst Senior Class Gift Ideas** will trump in hideousness and/or inappropriateness even these aberrations to all that is good and holy. The final list will appear in Friday's issue.



SCENES OF BREAD LOAF LIFE — SLUMBER-SEALED SPIRITS

by Anonymous

The Crub

The Daley Bulletin of the Breadloaf Skool of English in Vermont

Volume 88 Number 27

Thursday, August 2, 2007

Trivia

Which American author, Charles Dickens conceded, solved the murder in the serialized Barnaby Rudge before Dickens had written it?

Events

New Mexico Meeting

5:00, Barn 1

Soccer

7:30, Field

Madrigalists

8:00, East Lawn

Henry IV

8:30, Theatre

Gilmore

9:00-onward

Dinner

Jane's chicken parmesan or crispy eggplant towers; penne pasta; homemade marinara and three cheeses; zucchini with sun-dried tomato butter; chocolate cake.

Weather

Today:

Scorching,
90/63.

Tomorrow:

Stormy & windy,
85/68.

Sat./Sun.:

Lots of sun,
highs around 80.

About the Crub

Despite the *Crumb* Bum's rigorous fact-checking policy, which consists of wondering "Does that *sound* true?" and following his gut, it has been brought to his attention that various "facts" reported in yesterday's issue ranged from "potentially misprinted" to "inaccurate" to "inexplicably mistaken as to the obvious truth" to "libelous, litigation pending." The *Crumb* sincerely apologizes for the errors and vows that today's issue will be subject to particularly fastidious proofreading in an effort to.

Henry IV Story Contained a Real Howler

The bloodcurdling screams echoing around campus late last night are, it turns out, just part of the Acting Ensemble's stunning performance of Pirandello's *Henry IV*, which will be presented again tonight through Sunday at 8:30 in the Little Theatre. The production is technically sold out, but there are usually no-shows, so ticketless students should show up before 8:30 to see if any spaces have become available.

The screams are not, as yesterday's *Crumb* surmised, the lamentations of students who deposited the requisite funds and pushed the correct buttons for a Frappuccino, only to have the vending machine malfunction and leave the cool beverage suspended, as grapes before an undercaffeinated Tantalus, infuriatingly just out of reach.

Note Even Close to the Truth

The Madrigalists will perform their summer's set of songs once again this evening (as well as the next three) at 8 on the East Lawn (between Larch and the Little Theatre). While they are correct that two of their songs are settings of poems by Ben Jonson and Dylan Thomas, their insinuation that Rockapella's "Peanut Shell" is a revision of Shakespeare's Sonnet 107 is a patent falsehood.

My Calculations Only 20% Off

Yesterday's *Crumb* contained several mathematical errors regarding the Bookstore sale (which will begin on Tuesday, not Monday as was previously advertised). A 20% discount does not make Michael Cadden's Modern American Drama texts "free," which was the *Crumb*'s initial estimate. Also, the *Crumb* misplaced a decimal point and forgot to carry a 2, resulting in its claim that if you bought a Bread Loaf sweatshirt at the discounted price of "minus-\$1.72," Ed would actually give you money.

Southwest Known for Its Tall Tales

Jim Maddox will describe, answer questions pertaining to, and tell stories about Bread Loaf's program in Santa Fe this afternoon at 5 in Barn 1. He will not, as yesterday's *Crumb* postulated he would, attempt to re-create the "Santa Fe Experience" by lading out margaritas while Francis Cram and his Mariachi Band (formerly Francis Cram and his Square Dance Band) wrestle with "Besame Mucho."

Miss Steps

Sorina Higgins has moved her Old-Fashioned Dance to Sunday night at 8, the better to entice loads of people to come learn English country dances, the Virginia Reel, and maybe some ragtime and contra. The dance music will be supplied by Sorina herself and not, as was indicated in yesterday's *Crumb*, by the undisputed experts on Austenian dance music, DJ's "E-Bennet" and "Fizzles-Wizzles" Darcy.

MisinFormation

Yesterday's *Crumb* erroneously reported that the reenrollment forms asked returning students to indicate not only which campus they plan to attend in 2008, but how much it was worth to them to have Jim or Emily "reserve" a spot at the preferred destination. No official record of this policy exists. You should simply return reenrollment forms to the Office and fill out course and campus evaluations on the form provided or online.

The Office reminds students that Middlebury College no longer mails grade reports. Information about when grades will be available online, and how to retrieve them, will appear in your mailboxes soon. If you need an official Bread Loaf transcript, request forms are available either in the Office or online.

Bread Loaf has a wealth of information available on its website. To access it, go to the Middlebury College home page (www.middlebury.edu) and select Bread Loaf School of English. Click on "Current Students" to find information and/or links for grades and transcripts, course registration, transfer credits, letters of recommendation, and other topics.

Slip of the Pen

You need only fill out the Departure Slips at the Front Desk if you're leaving *before* Friday, August 10. The only information the Front Desk needs is your name, room number, and time of departure – not, as they hinted, your eye color, turn-ons, and name of the Front Desk staffer you find the most "delectable."

Crumb Regrets Dishonest T

The Director's Assistants pointed out several inaccuracies in the *Crumb*'s coverage of the imminent arrival of the shipment of 2007 Bread Loaf T-shirts. If you pre-ordered a T-shirt but are leaving Bread Loaf before next Tuesday, leave money with Christie, Eric or Jen before you go. Do not, as was recommended in yesterday's issue, pay the *Crumb* Bum directly in cash or checks made out to the "*Crumb* Baby College Fund."

UPS, I Did It Again

If you'd like to use UPS to ship books or other belongings home, see Ed at the Front Desk next Monday, Tuesday, or Wednesday from 8-12. Despite indications to the contrary in yesterday's *Crumb*, UPS is not currently able to ship intangibles or abstractions, such as a Vermont sunset or the convivial Barn East atmosphere. Cree-Mees and freshly baked American Flatbreads do not travel well. Bread Loaf reserves the right to examine, and confiscate if necessary, "shipments" suspiciously resembling Adirondack chairs wrapped in butcher paper.

Dead Wrong

The plot synopsis of *Better Off Dead* that appeared in yesterday's *Crumb* was rife with misinformation. It is not the biopic of Johnny Cash and his wife (Reese Witherspoon), a blonde sorority queen who heads off to Harvard Law School, where she receives assistance from a trial assistant (Luke Wilson) who becomes "the Godfather" of a fraternity for disenchanted thirtysomething men, including "Frank the Tank" (Will Ferrell), who believes that his life is being narrated by a famous author (Emma Thompson) who works as housekeeper at an English estate, where she falls in love with the butler (Anthony Hopkins), a cannibal who helps a novice FBI agent (Jodie Foster) whose new house contains a safe room with a secret inside that is targeted by a group of criminals, one of whom (Forest Whitaker) is the infamous dictator Idi Amin.

The story of *Better Off Dead* actually concerns the adolescent angst of young Lane Meyer (John Cusack), who must cope with the breakup of his relationship, the hygienic and culinary transgressions of his truly appalling neighbors, and the silver-tongued taunts of his drag-racing immigrant neighbors whose English is limited to what they gleaned from hearing Howard Cosell declaim on *Wide World of Sports*. Showtime is Friday at 9 in the Barn.

I Made a Bo-Bo

Yesterday's *Crumb* reported that Bo Bo Denk, the band playing at Saturday's Barn dance, described themselves as sounding "kind of like Crosby, Stills, & Nash, only much worse, and with a female vocalist." Apparently some readers, hastily skimming yesterday's *Crumb*, are under the impression that it is actually Crosby, Stills, & Nash who will play the Barn dance on Saturday, and that the unnamed "female vocalist" could be either Mama Cass or Janis Joplin. The *Crumb* extends its sincerest sympathies to the classmates of these blockheads, for having to endure their utterly superficial interpretations and other prolonged, inane contributions all summer long.

Television Wouldn't Lie

The *Crumb* admits no error whatsoever in yesterday's clearly phrased, un-misinterpretable trivia question. The *Crumb* rejoices at having once again stumped the entire campus (despite the lingering suspicion that Bread Loafers currently have better things to do than spend an hour hunting down the answer to an obscure question about an obscurer Pirandello play). The *Crumb* concedes that Jeffrey Shoulson did eventually come up with the right answer – Pirandello's *The Man with the Flower in His Mouth* was the first play broadcast on television – but points out that it took him several guesses.

Regrettable Ten-dency

The *Crumb* regrets the recurring and obvious mistake of referring to the weekly "Top Ten" competition when none of this summer's final lists have contained fewer than twenty-two entries. Also, David Letterman's "representatives," Jocko and Boltcutter, make a really, really persuasive case that Mr. Letterman possesses the sole rights to that term. The list will henceforth be termed the "Superlative Yet-To-Be-Determined Quantity Of Items Within A Given Category, None of Which Are Remotely As Funny As Anything That Great Guy David Letterman Says." Get your submissions for this week's compendium of the **Worst Senior Class Gift Ideas** to the *Crumb* by tomorrow morning for inclusion in that day's issue.

The Crumb Final Exam

The Daily Bulletin of the Bread Loaf School of English in Vermont

Volume 88, Number 28

Friday, August 3, 2007

Trivia

Which author paid Sinclair Lewis \$52.50 for nine plots?

Events

Friday:

Soccer vs. School of Spanish 4:30, Midd Fields

Barn Four

7, Ball & Chain

Madrigalists 8

Henry IV 8:30

Better Off Dead

9, Barn

Saturday:

Madrigalists 8

Henry IV 8:30

Barn Dance w/ Bo Bo Denk 10-1

Sunday:

Blue Parlor 7:30

Old-Fashioned

Dance 8, Barn

Madrigalists 8

Henry IV 8:30

Sexual

Orientation Disc.

9, Blue Parlor

Dinner

Cider beef stew or roasted pepper, corn, and jalapeno jack risotto; braised veggies; baklava.

Weather

Today:

Scattered storms, 86/59.

Sat./Sun.:

Sunny, gorgeous. Highs near 80.

About the Final Exam

Oh, you mean you thought that those papers were all you had left to do? Not quite. With plagiarism and paper factories infiltrating even this idyllic spot, Bread Loaf felt it wise to subject all students to a more objective evaluation of their progress this summer. Get out a #2 pencil, read all directions carefully, and return this exam to the Front Desk by the end of lunch today. You may begin.

Old-Fashioned Dance Fill-Ins

Sorina Higgins will lead an **Old-Fashioned Dance on Sunday at 8 in the Barn**. Everyone is invited to learn the Virginia Reel, some English country dances, and perhaps some ragtime or contra if time and interest permit. Revise the titles of the following modern dance songs to make them appropriate for the stately kind of gathering Sorina has in mind. Some examples are provided:

"Don't You Want Me" by the Human League:

"Dost Thou Not Want Me, Baby?"

"Groove Is In The Heart" by Dee-Lite:

"The Deepest Harmonie of My Soule"

"My Humps" by the Black-Eyed Peas:

"Laffy Taffy" by D4L:

"Hips Don't Lie" by Shakira:

Forms Fill-In

There are several **forms** you may need to fill out before you leave Bread Loaf. Put an "E" next to all forms **essential** for you fill out; put an "O" next to all forms that are **optional** to fill out; put an "N" next to all forms that are **nonexistent** and possess no particular urgency.

____ Departure slip, if you're leaving before Friday 8/10 (available at the Front Desk)

____ Order form for Chef Jim's cookbook, *Knead That Bread Loaf!*

____ Bread Loaf reenrollment form

____ Angry petition to Jim titled "I Spent A Whole Summer Here - And I Never Learned To Read!!!!!"

____ Bread Loaf transcript request (also available online)

____ Course and campus evaluations

North Carolina/Oxford Matching

After attending the **informational meetings on Bread Loaf's programs in Asheville** (Monday, 5, Barn 1) and **Oxford** (Tuesday, 5, Barn 1), label with a "UNCA" all statements that apply to the University of North Carolina-Asheville and with an "OX" all statements that apply to Oxford University.

- ____ Features coursework on literature of the South
- ____ Alma mater of 25 British Prime Ministers
- ____ Alma mater of Houston Astros player Ty Wigginton
- ____ Founded sometime in the late 11th century
- ____ In city often named one of "America's Most Livable"
- ____ Basketball team advanced to second round of 2003 NCAA Tournament

Henry IV / Madrigalists Multiple Choice

Attend one of the remaining performances of **Henry IV** (Fri-Sun, 8:30) and the pre-play concerts of the **Bread Loaf Madrigalists** (Fri-Sun, 8). Answer the following questions about the two performances.

1. "My arms are gonna heal you like Calamine" is:
 - a) a line from the Madrigalists' song "Peanut Shell"
 - b) the Doctor's prescribed treatment for "Henry"
2. The apparent reason someone goes insane is:
 - a) He fell off of a horse during a pageant/parade
 - b) He attempted to untangle the sentence structure of the Madrigalists' setting of Dylan Thomas' "Fern Hill"
3. The excerpts from *Carmina Burana* used during *Henry IV* come from:
 - a) a compact disc
 - b) the Madrigalists and the Ripton Symphony, brilliantly concealed just offstage through the genius of Stage Manager Amy Stern
 - c) the Croutons choir and Pep Band
 - d) Emily Bartels banging a gong and singing at the top of her lungs, overdubbed like crazy

Barn Four Math Question

Barn Four is playing at the Ball & Chain Café, the coffeehouse on the second floor of Brandon's Briggs Carriage Bookstore, **tonight at 7**. Imagine an inversion of that scenario, in which a coffeehouse opens in Barn 4. Using your normal weekly Starbucks expenditures during the academic year and factoring in the increased demand for caffeine generated by the stress of paper deadlines, calculate the number of hours you would have to work as a faculty member's personal valet (at \$1.85/hour) to satisfy your cravings for grande skim double-shot mochas.

Soccer Creative Writing

The **School of English soccer team ventures down to Middlebury this afternoon to play the School of Spanish squad**. Before 4:30 today, write a short original poem that could easily be adapted into a cheer or crowd chant during this afternoon's game. Bonus points for poems/cheers that so get under the skin of the School of Spanish players that they break the Language School Oath to retaliate.

Blue Parlor Process of Elimination

Kalli Federhofer, Ed Brown, Christie Beveridge, Sorina Higgins, and Courtney Giknis will read their work this Sunday at 7:30 in the Blue Parlor. Everyone will love them; no *American Idol*-style panel of judges will decide their artistic fates, nor will they be subject to elimination challenges such as the ones found on *Survivor*. Just for fun, though, identify which Blue Parlor reader you think would win the following reality TV challenges and explain the reasons for your choice.

- a) Catch deerfly using only chopsticks.
- b) Eat entire Salad Bar container of mayonnaise.
- c) Pursue, catch, and hold for five seconds the speedy and notoriously squirmy Dashiell Thorne.

Better Off Dead Plot Synopsis

Tonight's film, *Better Off Dead*, contains the following elements: a brokenhearted, average-looking high school boy (John Cusack), his former girlfriend who's dumped him for a tastier slice of man-cake, and a cute exchange student living next door. Using your knowledge of 1980's films, identify which of the following is the likeliest ending to the film, and explain your answer.

1. Cusack skips school, spends day eluding vindictive principal and pretending to be Abe Froman, Sausage King of Chicago.
2. Cusack takes out frustration over breakup on hordes of slimy ghosts, including the Sta-Puft Marshmallow Man, terrorizing Manhattan.
3. When Communist troops begin World War III by attacking ordinary high school, Cusack flees to woods with intrepid adolescent band of "Wolverines," uses guerilla warfare to defeat enemy.
4. Determined to win former love back, Cusack works himself into fighting trim and defeats seemingly invincible Ivan Drago to cheers of "U.S.A.!! U.S.A.!!"

Bookstore Sale/Shipping Word Problem

Using the Bookstore's prices, the 20% discount they'll offer on books, clothes, and gifts starting next Tuesday, and current UPS rates, calculate the total cost of shipping the following items to the indicated destinations next **M, T, or W between 8-12, when Ed will accept your packages** at the Front Desk:

- a. One gross of Bread Loaf baseball caps to Guam
- b. An "I L♥Vermont" bumper sticker to the International Space Station
- c. A copy of *The Collected Poems of Robert Frost*, with a badly forged inscription by "Frost" attesting to your wizardry as a wordsmith, sent to your department chair in a sadly transparent effort to land that plum honors section.

Lost & Found Scavenger Hunt

For extra credit: Locate and return to Teresa Harings the **dark blue velvet hooded sweatshirt** she misplaced a few weeks ago, perhaps in the cafeteria or the Barn. The specific form of the "extra credit" awarded is entirely up to Teresa.

Mystery Author Identification

Name the author to whom Sinclair Lewis sold nine plots for a pittance. Liz Bedell and Stephen Thorne need not complete this section, as they both knew that it was Edgar Allan Poe who, while reading the serialized *Barnaby Rudge*, solved the murder in the story before Dickens had even written the solution.

Top Ten List

Note the dominance of three teams – the Apple Seedlings, Inn Your Face, and the Director's Assistants – in this week's list. Given their obvious intelligence, creativity, and wealth of leisure time, locate one of the members of these three teams and determine how much would be a fair amount to offer him or her to a) proofread your final paper, b) write your final paper, c) find a really snappy Trapper Keeper® report cover for your paper and, using clip art, print out a cool title page your professor will think is totally awesome.

Top Ten (OK, We're Generous) Worst Senior Class Gift Ideas.

28. Funds to replace Chef Jim with Chef Boyardee. (DA)
27. "Hooked on Phonics" Deluxe Edition. (IYF)
26. Leopard-print lounge cushions for Adirondack chairs. (DA)
25. Open-air ice hockey rink. (BB)
24. Larger desks sensibly marked "Husky Student Parking." (LP)
23. Pair of cream-yellow Bread Loaf JetSkis for John's Pond. (IYF)
22. Foosball table for second floor of Library. (DA)
21. Vibrating heart-shaped beds for all rooms in Larch. (DA)
20. Funds to trap all the chipmunks on campus and affix little reading glasses to their heads. (AS)
19. Wednesday-Only gift certificates for Flatbread. (IYF)
18. Trojan horse filled with Trojans™. (IYF)
17. Bust of Emily Bartels carved in Vermont Cabot Cheddar. (OXA)
16. Cliff's Notes rack for the library. (AS)
15. Pinata filled with copies of various Norton anthologies. (IYF)
14. Cornwall tattoo and piercing parlor. (DA)
13. Library subscription to *US Weekly*. (DA)
12. Lake Pleiad leech hatchery. (IYF)
11. Scholarship fund to attract Greater Boston prep school teachers. (IYF)
10. New, hand-illuminated version of *Ellen*, in Latin. (AS)
9. Endowed fund to bring *Showgirls* Director Paul Verhoeven to campus to direct summer's major production. (DA)
8. One thousand monkeys; one thousand typewriters. (LP)
7. Cans of ochre and aubergine paint as the exteriors of some of the buildings could use some sprucing up. (AS)
6. Ambient city sounds piped through loudspeaker on lawn. (IYF)
5. Second Keg-R-Ator for Treman faculty lounge. (DA)
4. Two-ply toilet paper for every dorm, not just the faculty housing. (OXA)
3. 400 Garfield posters to "spruce up the classrooms." (AS)
2. A sculpture commemorating the death of Anna Nicole Smith (1968-2007). (AS)
1. A tree. (LP)

Current Standings: Director's Assistants (DA) 32, Inn Your Face (IYF) 31, Apple Seedlings (AS) 28, Larch Porch (LP) 14, Boys of Barn East (BOBE) 9, Michael Yeakey (MY) 8, Waitstaff (WS) 8, Exiles on Main Street (EMS) 7, Bloomfield Beauties (BB) 6, Oxford Assistants (OXA) 6, Warren Wights (WW) 5, Jessica Horner (JH) 1.

Because everyone seems to be having fun with the Top Tens, because that work is *almost* done, and because the *Crumb* Bum can't bid adieu without one last week of competition, let's drum up some more submissions posthaste and publish one last list in Wednesday's issue – the **Top Ten Myths About Bread Loaf Worth Propagating in the Wider World.**

The Crumb

The Daily Bulletin of the Bread Loaf School of English in Vermont

Volume 88, Number 29

Monday, August 6, 2007

Quotable

"This writing business. Pencils and what-not. Over-rated, if you ask me. Silly stuff. Nothing in it."
-Eeyore

Events

North Carolina Info Meeting
5:00, Barn 1

Queer/Queer-Friendly Table
6:00, Dining Hall

Directing Scenes
7:00, Theatre

Huddle Poetry Class Reading
7:30, Barn 1

Barn 4 Concert
9:00, Barn

Dinner

Maple-thyme-balsamic flank steak or roasted pepper and jalapeno jack rigatoni; mustard-crumbed green beans; mystery dessert.

Weather

Today:
Storms, 66/57.

Tomorrow:
Partly cloudy,
81/58.

Wednesday:
Scattered
afternoon
goodbyes, turning
increasingly
jovial by evening.

Crumb Editor Tryouts Today

The illustrious writers who have contributed today's stories have all expressed interest in succeeding the *Crumb* Bum next summer. Please let Jim Maddox know which one you find most qualified for the post and (except for Kushner, McCarthy, and possibly Salinger) how he might go about revivifying his or her corpse.

North Carolina Meeting by James Joyce

O that wonderful Asheville campus O and the cool and the mountains beautiful like fire and the carolina sunsets and the pinetrees in the university gardens yes and all the shops and galleries and music and the courses and the professors and friendships and Asheville as a student where I was a Flower of the mountain yes or **shall I go to the informational meeting today at five** yes and how Jim told me all about the program there and then I asked him with my eyes to answer my question yes and he didn't understand me so I asked again this time using actual words which yes worked much better then Jim asked me was I planning to go to Asheville next year yes to say yes my mountains of the south and I was so excited to go that first I put my arms around the random guy next to me yes and drew him down to me so he could feel me all perfume yes and my heart was going like mad and yes I said yes and he said I don't know who you are yes but yes ok then yes and I said yes I will go to Asheville Yes.

Or maybe I want to go to Oxford instead in which case I will go to the meeting tomorrow afternoon.

Directing Scenes Tonight by F. Scott Fitzgerald

"Look, he had this book as a boy. It just shows you." He opened it and turned it around for me to see. On the last fly-leaf was printed the word SCHEDULE, and the date August 6, 2007 and underneath:

"Rise from bed 10:30 A.M.
Await **Directing Workshop Scenes**. 10:30-7:00
Railing It Uptown, directed by Heather Brubaker. .7:00
The Sin Eater, directed by Kenley Smith. 7:20
from Joe Egg, directed by John Speek. 7:45
from The Heidi Chronicles, dir. Lauren Ketterer. .8:10
from The Real Thing, dir. Rachel Ann Bradbury. .8:25
Contemplate beauty and power of scenes 9:00-3:00
Go to bed; dream of scenes. 3:30 A.M.

GENERAL RESOLVES

Do the same thing tomorrow night for scenes directed by Rebecca Burman, Jen Miers, Mike Dindoffer, Stuart Guthrie, Mel Graham, and Matt Fahnestock."

"It just shows you, don't it?" said the old man.
"It just shows you," I replied, "but what, I have no idea."

Huddle Poetry Class Reads by Joyce Kilmer

I think that I shall never see
D. Huddle's class read poetry.
What's that you say? They read tonight?
At 7:30? Well, all right!
Bad poems are made by fools like me;
His class writes better poetry.

Barn Four Concert by J.D. Salinger

What I thought I'd do, I thought I'd go out and see what the hell was going on in the Barn. They had this band, **Barn Four, playing there at 9.** Now most bands are bunches of phonies who play one crumby song and then spend about nine hours giving girls the eye and then play another crumby song. But this band, they were pretty good, I had to admit. They played real songs – not the lousy kind where there isn't even a tune. Phoebe would've liked them. They played this one song, "I Took The Road Less Traveled," that I knew was from a poem Mr. Antolini taught us once. I read quite a lot of poetry. I swear to God Mr. Antolini would have died if he had heard it. It just about killed me. Only it didn't, so I sat there and kept listening. The band was actually really good. You should hear them sometime.

Bookstore Sale by Tony Kushner

ANGEL: American Prophet tomorrow you become!
Savvy Shopper that hunteth Bargains.
Now: Remove from the Bookstore the Sacred Prophetic Implements.
PRIOR: What? What implements? I'm not...
ANGEL: Books! And Clothing! And Gifts! Sacred items all! And **all for 20% off starting tomorrow!**
PRIOR: This is a dream, obviously. I mean, the Bookstore wouldn't just mark good merchandise down for no reason. Where's the profit in it?
ANGEL: YOU are the Prophet In It! And 20% Off SHALL you receive! Now: Retrieve the Book.
PRIOR: What book? There sell so many there! How...
ANGEL: THE Book! The Repository of All Wisdom!
PRIOR: Could you be more specific? The Bible? *Hamlet*?
ANGEL: Actually, it's *The Da Vinci Code*.
PRIOR: What?
ANGEL: I know. I I I I Know. It is hard to believe.

Queer-Friendly Table by Walt Whitman

This is the steak for natural hunger, this the table equally set; It is for the **queer and queer-friendly, they invite you all,** (I see you as well, vegetarian ordering rigatoni, and I smile at you, for your dietetic preferences are no less beautiful than mine.)

Not a single person wishing to join them will be left away, There are chairs for all, and other tables can easily be added, I know them and their conversation and I love it, If you want to join them look for them in the Dining-Hall. You will easily know who they are and what they mean, (The table is marked with a Reserved sign,) They stop somewhere waiting for you.

T-Shirt Distribution by Nathaniel Hawthorne

With a haughty smile, and a glance that would not be abashed, the young woman looked around at her townspeople and neighbours. On her **T-shirt, which she received at lunch Tuesday**, in fine sage green cloth, imprinted with elaborate embroidery and fantastic flourishes of letterwork, appeared the phrase "Bread Loaf School of English." It was so artistically done, and with so much fertility and gorgeous luxuriance of fancy, that \$17 seemed a

small price to pay, and the assembled townspeople despaired, for they had not ordered a like garment for themselves and their former calumny against the young woman turned to envy and regret, for whilst she but *had* screwed, they truly *were* screwed.

Forms Need Filling Out by Lewis Carroll

Alice next found a Mad-Ox and his Associate drinking coffee, and she asked them for a **Reenrollment Form**. "Why? Are you coming *here* this summer?" he huffed.

"I beg your pardon, Sir," Alice said, "but I am *already* here this summer." She then explained to the Mad-Ox that it was *next* summer that she wanted to return to this Wonderland. "Might I also have an **Evaluation Form**?" she asked next. Whereupon the Mad-Ox thrust towards her a sheaf of papers. "What are these?" she inquired meekly.

"That is the Evaluation Form for your comments on courses and the campus," the Mad-Ox said, "and *this* is the Evaluation Evaluation, which asks your opinion of the first form. Then, we have the Evaluation Evaluation Evaluation, in case you feel —"

"I don't have time for all that nonsense!" Alice retorted, quickly **filling out only the Reenrollment Form and Evaluation and leaving them in the Office**.

"What about a **Departure Slip**?" asked the Associate as Alice turned to go. "You fill it out after you're gone, then give it to the Front Desk." The Mad-Ox snorted at the Associate and looked away.

"That doesn't make any sense!" protested Alice. "I can't very well return it to the Front Desk *after* I've gone! You **fill it out today, so Victoria will know when you're leaving so she can assign empty rooms to graduation guests!**" And with that, Alice turned to leave.

"I *told* you you had it the wrong way round," the Mad-Ox said to the Associate, who proceeded to pick him up with the sugar-tongs and stuff him into the cream-pitcher.

Farewell Dinner by Mark Twain

Well, Tuesday night I had to get up in them new clothes again, and I couldn't do nothing but sweat and sweat, and feel all cramped up, on account of the Dining Hall not having air-conditioning.

Well, then, the old thing commenced again — that **Farewell Dinner that always takes place of a Tuesday** the last week of summer. The waiters rung a bell for supper, and you had to come to time. When you got to the table you could go right to eating, but then you had to wait for the Director to stand up and grumble a little after the victuals. The Director he cried over summer bein' all but over, and called out a lot of other names, too, **people who he reckoned deserved to be thanked**, but he never meant no harm by it.

Slide Show by Virginia Woolf

"Yes, of course, because it'll be fine tomorrow," said Mrs. Green-Lewis. "But you'll have to stay up with the owls," she added.

To her student these words conveyed an extraordinary joy, as if it were settled, the **Slide Show of Ed Brown's photographs bound to take place tomorrow at 9:00 in the Barn**, and the wonder which he had heard about all summer, for years and years it seemed, was, after a night's darkness and a day's wait, within touch.

The student, sitting on the floor cutting out the pictures from the illustrated catalogue of the Bread Loaf School of English, endowed the picture of an Adirondack chair with heavenly bliss. The chairs, the sunsets, the porches, the fireworks, actors performing, Madrigalists singing, students laughing, soccer players running, chipmunks scurrying — all these were so coloured and distinguished already in Ed Brown's lens and upon his hard drive that all one had to do was appear in the Barn tomorrow or Wednesday night at 9 and, rapt, watch.

Miscellaneous News Briefs by Allen Ginsberg

I saw the best minds of my generation half-destroyed by papers, typing hysterical shaken, dragging themselves to the **Library to buy Chris Brady's maple syrup** for a sugar fix, angelheaded hipsters burning for a memory connection to Bread Loaf and so **picking up the photos they ordered at the Front Desk**, who poverty and tatters and hollow-eyed nevertheless were rendered quite attractive by the pencil of Oliver Shoulson, **sketching portraits on the porch of the Inn by appointment, taking only five or ten minutes each and charging one measly dollar**, who bared their brains to Heaven like Isobel Armstrong who lost her **straw hat and would dearly like to find it again**, who doubtless suspect this style provides a convenient way to get a bunch of information across in relatively few lines, with the absolute heart of the original poem butchered out of its actual beauty by the crumbbum desperate to squeeze everything in.

Tips on Tips by Jane Austen

It is a truth universally acknowledged, that every single man and woman here is in possession of the good fortune of having their meals delivered to them and their dormitories cleaned.

However little known the feelings or views of such a person may be on his first entering this neighbourhood, this truth is so well fixed in the minds of the returning families, that he is considered a real tool who doesn't **tip the waiters and housekeepers generously**.

"My dear Mr. Bennett," said his lady to him one day, "have you given the Front Desk tips for your housekeeper and for the waiters?"

Andrew Bennett replied that he had not.

"Why not?" was the rejoinder. Mr. Bennett made no answer.

"Do you not want to express your gratitude?" cried the woman.

"Yes, of course I do," said Andrew. "But why are you picking on me? Everyone else needs to tip them too! I'm just being singled out because my last name conveniently works in this particular article!"

Van Run by Jack Kerouac

With the coming of the Front Desk Van began the part of my life you could call my life on the road. But now the Front Desk tells me that **the van's not running downtown after Wednesday, unless you want a ride down, but not back, Thursday or Friday morning at 9:00**. But the ending of the Front Desk Van doesn't end the part of my life you could call my life on the road, because I was beginning to wonder who would want to read a novel about driving up and down the same 11-mile stretch of Routes 125 and 7 every weekday. And riding down with Ed Brown listening to his 25-minute monologues made me realize that I'd rather travel the country with someone a little more well-adjusted, like Dean Moriarty.

Top Ten List by Cormac McCarthy

Final days. Amid the tumult of lastminute paperwriting and the corybantic whoops of workfree celebrants and in the squalor of their livingquarters some motley bands yet composed **topten lists**. Full of **myths about breadloaf worth propagating in the wider world**. Talltales and patent inventions imagining this place an iniquitous den or paradisiacal sanctum or bescholared eldorado or somesuch caricature.

What catalogues their scanty wits afforded them they then presented to Freeman the judge who like some capricious archangel scrutinized these latterday offerings while the wouldbe published awaited his verdict like a ragged menagerie of supplicants gathered in some vast and silent shrine. He lifted his nearly cuebald head. Wednesday, he said. On Wednesday shall ye know.

Departure Slip – RETURN TO THE FRONT DESK

Name: _____ Room: _____

Departure Date/Time: _____

The Crumb

The Daily Bulletin of the Bread Loaf School of English in Vermont

Volume 88, Number 30

Tuesday, August 7, 2007

Quotable

**"What I have
purposed to
record is nearly
finished."
- Dickens**

Events

**Faculty Library
Info Meeting**
5:00, Library
Seminar Room

**Oxford Info
Meeting**
5:00, Barn 1

Farewell Dinner
6:00, Dining Hall

**Directing
Scenes**
7:00, Theatre

Smoke Signals
7:30, Barn 1

Slide Show
9:00, Barn

Dinner

Chicken cordon
bleu with
pineapple-mango
salsa or open-
faced enchiladas
with adobo
vegetables;
orange-saffron
rice pilaf;
cherry pie.

Weather

Today:
Mostly cloudy,
80/61.

Tomorrow:
AM rain, 74/52.

Thursday:
Partly cloudy,
78/55.

If You Need to Learn English Next Year

When Emily Bartels talks about Bread Loaf's Oxford campus this afternoon at 5 in Barn 1, she will speak of Lincoln College and the professors and courses and pubs and culture and trips to London and Stratford and the Lake District with unbounded enthusiasm. Attendees should consider adjusting some of her more exuberant claims to take into account the fact that Emily is occasionally prone to slight exaggeration. For example, just this morning, Emily said "Anyone who doesn't come will be shot!" when what she clearly meant was "Everyone is most cordially invited to attend."

Fare Good at Farewell Dinner

While you enjoy those last few bites of chicken cordon bleu or enchilada tonight at tonight's Farewell Dinner, Jim Maddox will ring down the curtain on the summer with some brief remarks and important thank-yous. All you need to do is show up and applaud heartily.

Now I've Scene Everything

The Directing Workshop students will present the second set of their final scenes tonight in the Theatre starting at 7:00. The full slate is as follows:

7:00 from *It Happened One Night*, dir. Rebecca Burman
7:15 from *Fool for Love*, dir. Jen Miers
7:30 from *Apartment 3-A*, dir. Mike Dindoffer
7:50 *Sure Thing*, dir. Stuart Guthrie
8:05 from *Les Liaisons Dangereuses*, dir. Mel Graham
8:20 *Danny and the Deep Blue Sea*, dir. Matt Fahnestock

Everyone is invited to attend any or all of these scenes; the participants ask only that you enter or leave between, not during, scenes.

Electric Slides

Ed Brown has culled his best shots from the untold thousands of photos he's taken this summer, and he's ready to present the annual and absolutely unmissable Slide Show tonight and tomorrow night at 9 in the Barn. The audience will ooh and aah at the gorgeous shots of Bread Loaf and Bread Loafers, then repair to the porches and to Karaoke Night and to the privacy of their rooms to engage in various acts of excess and debauchery that go mercifully uncaptured by Ed's lens.

Bread Loaf Invites Everyone to Smoke

Some of the students in the American Indian Literature class will be viewing Sherman Alexie's film *Smoke Signals* in Barn 1 tonight at 7:30. Anyone who's interested is more than welcome to join them.

The Shipping News

Tomorrow's your last day to ship UPS packages from the Front Desk. From 8 until noon, Ed will process orders and collect payment. Things he will not do: supply you with boxes or tape, print out labels, or refrain from asking nosy questions about the contents of your packages.

The Clean House

There are only a few moral imperatives by which Bread Loafers must abide. Brew a new pot of coffee if you kill the old one, attend only the Director's Reception to which you were officially invited, and – most important of all – leave generous tips for the Housekeepers at the Front Desk. Were it not for their efforts, by August the dorm bathrooms, hallways and porches would be in a condition that even the choicest English adjective could not describe accurately. Look deep into your heart, then dig deep into your wallet.

Now Leaving Vermont. Welcome to Main.

In order to assist your continued scholarly pursuits and supply you with needed materials for your summer 2008 studies, Main Library will make many of its resources available to current Bread Loaf students and faculty (alas, not alumni) throughout the year. This includes all of the full-text journals (*English Literary Renaissance*, *Shakespeare Quarterly*) and most of the databases available via the Library's website (JSTOR, MLA Bibliography). While books and physical items cannot be shipped to remote locations, you can request electronic delivery of articles via Interlibrary Loan. All of these resources can be accessed by visiting <http://www.middlebury.edu/academics/lis>. Wow.

But wait! – There's more! – And at no additional cost to you! Bread Loaf students can also contact Reference (802-443-5496) for assistance in searching for and locating materials and use the Technology Helpdesk (802-443-2200) to get help with computer and connection issues. Any questions or comments? Contact Judy Watts at (802) 443-5798 or watts@middlebury.edu.

Maddox: Seniors a Big Bunch of Shrimps

Fine, so my late arrival to this morning's meeting found Jim in midsentence, and he *does* insist that what he was saying was "For the senior reception tomorrow afternoon at Earthworm, I'd really like to get the Seniors a big bunch of shrimps" – but that's what I heard, so that's what I report. If you're a senior who believes that Jim's inclined more towards generosity than towards insult, head down to Earthworm tomorrow at 5 to partake of these rumored shrimp and the champagne Jim says will flow in celebration of the conclusion of your Bread Loaf career.

It Was Just \$17 (You Know What I Mean)

We're talking about the Bread Loaf T-shirts, which should be here in time for the Director's Assistants to distribute them before and after dinner, at tonight's Slide Show, and again tomorrow before and after lunch. So don't go anywhere without the \$17 you'll need to claim yours – if you pre-ordered one, that is. If you didn't, you'll have to ingratiate yourself somehow with one of the Assistants to snare one of the few extras they ordered. (Hint: Do not bring up the Drew Lecturer with Christie.)

No Impediment to Marriage of Two Minds

Farewell and congratulations to Katrina Yeager, who has one of the few good excuses for leaving Bread Loaf early – she's getting married this weekend. Best wishes!

At End of Summer, Take the Fifth

You need not divulge anything about your Bread Loaf summer that might incriminate you – but let's hope you have something more scandalous to report than the "steals" you got while the **Bread Loaf Bookstore's knocking one-fifth off its prices** this week. Normal hours this afternoon and tomorrow, plus a last gasp on Thursday from 9-11. After that, the only way to brag to others about where you spend your summers will be to hand-embroider "School of English" on your own fleece, baseball cap, or lace teddy.

When Are You Going, Where Have You Lived?

Please, please, *please* fill out a **Departure Slip** (there's one on the back of the *Crumb*) and return it to the Front Desk ASAP. Victoria needs to know which rooms will be empty and available for paying guests this weekend. By not turning one in, you risk discovering on Thursday that for the last three nights of the summer you'll be rooming with an 84-year-old grandma with a fondness for extended anecdotes about her lumbago and a snore like a road grader.

Victoria: We Are Not Amused

While we're discussing how long you'll be here (and you're welcome to stay for Commencement – Bread Loaf doesn't officially shut its doors until Sunday, after breakfast), Victoria absolutely *has* to know how many students who aren't seniors or guests of seniors are planning to attend the **Commencement Banquet** on Saturday night (prime rib, stuffed portobellos) and need a seat. Without a seat, you'll have to hover outside the Kitchen door for table scraps and hope the tricks Chef Jim makes you perform aren't too demeaning.

Parting Shots

The **All-School Photo** and most of the others have arrived at the Front Desk and are available for pickup – if, of course, you ordered one back when we told you to. The only one yet to arrive is the Faculty photo, which requires at least four solid weeks of airbrushing and other PhotoShop wizardry before gazing at it doesn't cause the same kind of irreparable damage to the cornea as looking directly at an eclipse or attempting to read one of the later novels of Henry James.

Here's the Story of a Man Named Brady

In between checking out reserve texts and the myriad other dramatic, lives-in-the-balance jobs of a librarian, Chris Brady runs the Ghyll-Fen Farm, on which is produced **maple syrup** so pure and sweet it makes Log Cabin taste like the runoff from a Jiffy Lube. He only charges \$5 a bottle for his liquid gold, and that is *not* – I swear this as a regular customer – just the introductory price until you're a full-blown addict, after which Chris jacks the price up to whatever he thinks you can afford. Stop by the Library to pick up the best Vermont souvenir of 'em all.

Portraits by an Artist Who's a Young Man

Oliver Shoulson has opened an informal portrait studio on the Inn porch before and after meals. In only a few minutes, he'll produce a likeness for you to keep, and Jeffrey Shoulson attests to Oliver's skill at draftsmanship, saying "a proud father adds that the boy's got some real talent and seems to be able to capture the essence of his subjects with just a few sweeps of the pencil." Oliver, clearly taking a page from the Wal-Mart Ruthless Business Practices Manual, is charging only a dollar a portrait for his services, a bargain-basement price that almost certainly spells financial ruin for Ed Brown's former monopoly on the portrait business in these parts.

From the Commencement of the End to the End of Commencement

A brief calendar of upcoming events, mostly related to Commencement and many open to everyone:

- Wednesday, 5:00: Senior Reception at Earthworm.
- Friday, 9-midnight: Senior "Non-Prom" in Barn. Music, movies, food, drink, good company. Open to all.
- Saturday, 12:30: Commencement Picnic on the West Lawn. Open to all Bread Loafers and to families and friends of the senior class.
- Saturday, 6:00: Commencement Banquet in the Dining Hall. All Bread Loafers invited, but anyone not a senior or the guest of a senior must reserve a seat with Victoria as soon as possible.
- Saturday, 8:30-ish: Commencement in the Theatre. All invited.
- Sunday, 8:00-9:00 a.m.: Breakfast in the Dining Hall. Last meal for Bread Loaf students.
- Sunday, 11:00 a.m.: The mountain gently shoves you off its knees. All students must be moved out. Sigh.

Professor Loses Hat; Will Mind Follow?

Isobel Armstrong is still looking for her signature straw hat, which she has misplaced she knows not where. Please keep an eye open for it; otherwise, Isobel will be forced to forego her traditional headgear for a boring old mortarboard at Saturday's Commencement.

Opportunity of Windows

The **Apple Cellar** hours remain unchanged today and tomorrow, but then they begin dwindling down to a precious few – first with an early closing (5 p.m.) Thursday, then shortened hours (9-12 and 2-4) on Friday, then the death throes on Saturday (9-11 a.m.). Sometime within those limits would also be a fine time to show up and cough up payment for all that laser printing you did this summer.

What a Long, Strange Trip It's Been

The **Front Desk van** winds its regular way down to Middlebury and back this afternoon and tomorrow. The sign-up sheet, you surely know by now, is at the Front Desk. On Thursday and Friday, you can hitch a ride to town at 9:00 a.m., but no return service is available on those days. Some suggested alternate means of getting back:

- a) Ride skateboard up 125 while clinging to rear bumper of logging truck, a la Marty McFly in *Back to the Future*.
- b) Hitchhike. Instead of offering gas money, entertain driver with recitation of Book IV of *The Faerie Queene*.
- c) Make slow, perilous voyage up the Middlebury River aboard a Company steamboat bound for the Interior. (Warning: May involve attacks from hostile natives and extremely turgid prose.)

Bread Loaf Summers Stuff of "Rural Legend"

Look, when people in the real world ask how your Bread Loaf summer was, telling them the truth won't work; your animated stories about reading *Troilus and Criseyde*, dressing up as Kurt Vonnegut, or submitting catchy country song titles containing literary puns will be met with confusion, disdain, or just thinly concealed boredom.

It's much more fun to convince the uninitiated that Bread Loaf is a place of Olympian intellectual proportion, where anything less than a four-syllable word is scoffed at and students not only swim in John's Pond but also walk across it. We'll provide you with some good material when the list of the **Top Ten Myths About Bread Loaf Worth Propagating in the Wider World** appears in tomorrow's *Crumb*, provided the usual contingents can gather themselves for one last burst of creative submissions. Get 'em to Jon by 10 tomorrow.

Departure Slip – RETURN TO THE FRONT DESK

Name: _____ Room: _____

Departure Date/Time: _____

The Crumb

The Daily Bulletin of the Bread Loaf School of English in Vermont

Volume 88, Number 31

Wednesday, August 8, 2007

Quotable

"As they had all been thrown together by chance, and had all preserved a good understanding together, and were now about to disperse, and were not likely ever to find themselves all together again, what could they do better than bid farewell to one another, and give one another good-speed in a simultaneous glass of cool champagne all round the table? It was done, and with a general shaking of hands the assembly broke up for ever."
-Dickens

Events

Senior Reception
5:00, Earthworm

Softball
7:00, Field

Slide Show
9:00, Barn

Dinner

Smoky maple roast pork with fingerling potatoes or ravioli; squash; toll house pie.

Weather

Today:
Few showers,
76/53.

Weekend:
Isolated storms,
highs around 75.

Hors d'Over

Jim Maddox invites the senior class to celebrate the conclusion of their Bread Loaf studies at a champagne and shrimp reception today at 5 at Earthworm Manor. This represents one of your last and best chances to extract full value for that tuition check; the shrimp are customarily of a size that could make them eligible to enter the Westminster Kennel Show in the "Toy" category.

Photo Finish

Ed Brown will present the summer slide show again this evening in the Barn at 9. Since every single member of the BL community seemed to be there for last night's show, perhaps I don't need to describe how Ed has once again captured the beauty and vibrancy and joy of a Bread Loaf summer. Then again, given that you may not remember attending last night's show because you were ahem, celebrating vigorously, perhaps I do.

End Game

If you enjoy playing softball or relish the opportunity to vent your hitherto sublimated frustration with (insert name of maddeningly impenetrable author about whom you had to write something approximating cogency here) by hitting the bejeezus out of a big white ball, why not come to the softball game tonight after dinner on the field over by the Milkhouse. Everyone's welcome; the organizers ask that you bring any equipment you have.

Last-Dish Effort

Sam Morrill is looking for someone to cover his waitstaff shift Saturday morning. If you're ready and willing, give him a call at (917) 667-6793.

Market Closing

The 20% discount the Bookstore's been offering all week on books, clothing, and gifts has inspired drastic reductions in other areas as well. Look for a 50% reduction in Bookstore hours tomorrow - it'll only be open in the morning. After that, it's sayonara, baby.

Journeys End

The final van run to Middlebury takes place this afternoon, although if you need a ride downtown (but not back) tomorrow or Friday, you can hitch a ride from the Front Desk at 9. Amid the onslaught of nostalgia-inducing events of these final days, it is hard to imagine, although theoretically not impossible, that you'll wax sentimental about one last ride in your beloved Plymouth Voyager.

Cap It Off

Seniors must pick up their regalia (that's just the fancy word for "cap and gown") in the Bookstore this afternoon or tomorrow morning. If for some reason you can't drop by during those hours, or if you just plumb forget, stop by the Front Desk after tomorrow morning. You can pay with a credit card if you pick up your regalia at the Bookstore, but once it's closed only cash or checks will suffice.

Last Lapse

From Jim Maddox: "Oh my. I really really do apologize to the waiters, the most supportive and energetic community within a community at Bread Loaf. My truant eye skipped a notch during the thanks I read last night, and I truly regret my error. Thanks not only to you, but also to those students who, having noted my omission, shouted out their own thanks to the waiters when I finished."

Give Up

The Bread Loaf housekeepers have done everything short of buffing the woodland critters' fur to keep Bread Loaf looking its best this summer, so they deserve special consideration from you. ("Special consideration" is an example of a *euphemism*, which you remember we covered in Vocab List 3. Here, "special consideration" really means "leave generous tips for your housekeepers at the Front Desk.") Scrooges who try to hightail it out of here without offering a token of their appreciation have been known to find, upon arriving home, that their suitcases have been filled with a sizable delegation of the roughly 18,500 earwigs the housekeepers remove from Bread Loaf bathrooms each summer. Don't say you weren't warned.

Take It Away (Or Bring It Back)

Directing Workshop students who left props in the Theatre after this week's performances should claim them right away, as the stage must be readied for Saturday's Commencement ceremony. Conversely, if you borrowed something from the Theatre, return it ASAP.

Two More Papers Due Before You Go

I know your nerve endings are frayed right now, but - hang on - there are a few things you still need to do. **Fill out a campus evaluation** online or on the form you were given last week. I know, I know, you thought you were finished writing. But it's going to be OK. And - hear me out - if you're coming back next year, please **complete a reenrollment form** as well. Yes, I *promise* you it won't be graded. It's just a few more words, OK? And after that it'll all be over. Sssshhh...there, there...

Shut Down

Apple Cellar hours: normal today (open 'til midnight), shrinking tomorrow (closing at 5), all too brief on Friday (9-11 and 2-4), and a mere blip on Saturday morning (9-11) before Caroline hits CTRL+ALT+DEL on the whole shebang. The Library computers stay, though, and the wireless network soldiers on loyally. So life will go on.

Last Dance

Everyone's invited to Friday Senior Prom (9-1, Barn). Sorina Higgins adds that she'll offer lessons in English country dances and the Virginia Reel starting at 8. Cocktail attire is recommended, as it is a Prom, although one mercifully without the attendant adolescent dramas involving what to do about that ill-timed pimple, where to pin the corsage, and whether the principal's going to find out that the punch is spiked.

The Waiting Is Over

After lunch today, meals shift to the weekend schedule and the self-service method. Until, of course, the Commencement Banquet on Saturday at 6, at which your every need (your every *culinary* need, that is, unless you have an extraordinarily compliant server) will be attended to by one of the members of the superlative Waitstaff, who this morning elected to respond to Jim's oversight during last night's thank-yous with "charity and forgiveness," which narrowly defeated "torches and pitchforks."

Book Ends

Those lovely Library books that lent support and the barest wisp of plausibility to your argument, or that you just stacked on your desk to give the illusion of scholarly industry these past three weeks, are not yours. Please return them to Davison today or tomorrow morning. If you're contemplating keeping them, bear in mind that Middlebury College employs a strike force that can be deployed to any point in the continental U.S. for extractions of overdue books, purloined Adirondack chairs, or rogue Dining Hall tableware.

On the plus side, Main Library has generously agreed to allow continuing Bread Loaf students and faculty year-round access to all of the resources available on the Library website – full-text journals, online databases, and assistance from the help desk. So you've got that going for you, which is nice.

First Saturday, Then Sadder Day

Many Bread Loafers have already departed, and many more are about to, leaving the campus vulnerable to the annual invasion of Those Who Do Not Belong and Whom I Do Not Recognize, otherwise known as the families and friends of graduating seniors. Saturday's big events are open to everyone, though, so feel free to attend the Commencement Picnic (12:30, West Lawn), the Commencement Banquet (6:00, Dining Hall, see Victoria if you need a seat), Commencement itself (after dinner, usually around 8:30, Theatre), and the champagne reception in the Barn (after Commencement).

On Sunday, the Dining Hall will set out a continental breakfast at 6 for those with early-morning departures, then offer a hot breakfast from 7-9. After the morning's bustle of tears, urgings to stay in touch and travel safe, and final goodbyes, it's time for everyone to head home, whether you find Bread Loaf an earthly Paradise and this moment the Expulsion, or a Hell and you the proverbial bat out of it.

Every Fair from Fair Sometime Declines

...but the Addison County Fair and Field Days stays fair through this weekend, making it a perfect destination for a Thursday or Friday day trip. The fairgrounds are in New Haven, about a half-hour's drive away. Enjoy traditional carnival rides (unlimited rides for \$10 from 12-6 on Friday), good food, 4-H and open class animal shows, demolition derbies, tractor pulling, live bands, kids' activities, special demonstrations, and a multitude of exhibits. For directions and more information, go to addisoncountyfielddays.com.

Once More, with Feeling

One final *Crumb*, more ceremonial than content-driven, will appear tomorrow morning. After that, it's "So long, *Crumb* Bum." I can't say goodbye, however, without a few heartfelt words of thanks. I am forever indebted to Jim Maddox for the job offer in the spring of 2000 that vaulted me into this enviable position in the first place. I thank my readers for their compliments and corrections over the years, and hope that their days at Bread Loaf are as unforgettable as mine have been. Most of all, thanks to Rebecca for her unstinting assistance, her behind-the-scenes work as editor and contributor, her infinite patience, and her abiding love – and thanks, finally, to Bread Loaf, for bringing the two of us together.

The Final Countdown

The Director's Assistants find themselves sadly swamped with end-of-summer duties and unable to contribute to our final list, but they graciously acknowledge the superiority of, and concede the 2007 title to, team Inn Your Face. My sincerest thanks to all the Bread Loafers who, bending to whatever bizarre whim of a Top Ten idea comes over me that week, supply the brilliant ideas that bring smiles to everyone's faces at Friday lunches.

Top Ten (OK, "Ten" Is as Accurate as Everything Else in the List) Myths About Bread Loaf Worth Propagating in the Wider World

21. It's restful – like directed beach reading and conversation over iced tea. (AS)
20. Loafers are into sex, drugs, breads and rolls. (CM)
19. We have a stable of tame moose that give students rides to and from classes. (IYF)
18. Everyone here is young, attractive and intelligent. Think *Friends* in the mountains. (EMS)
17. Every night a highwayman comes riding, riding, riding, up to the old Inn door. (AS)
16. The Great Butter Flood of 1919 is responsible for the peculiar color of Bread Loaf buildings. (IYF)
15. Mother Superior Emily Bartels wakes all students at 6:00 for morning contemplation of the sublime. (IYF)
14. Ovid and Virgil course taught by faculty members who reside on nearby Mount Olympus. (IYF)
13. After making your way up the mountain through darkness and led by Chaos, you must pass through the gates to Bread Loaf which are guarded by Sin, her hellhounds, and her incestuous son, Death. (AS)
12. Waitstaff are all former Chippendales dancers. (MY)
11. Burdened with incredibly difficult and demanding studies, students have no time to partake in frivolities such as dances, trivia contests at local watering holes, or Top Ten lists. (MY)
10. Bread Loaf residents who do **not** engage in a summer fling forced to wear a scarlet "P" for Prudery. (IYF)
9. Bread Loaf secret society "Skull and Buns" strongly influences Carney-Sandoe hiring practices. (IYF)
8. Bread Loaf's actors-in-residence perform entire Thursday night must-see-TV lineup every week. (IYF)
7. Isobel Armstrong once ate Pop Rocks while drinking a Coke; she immediately went into a trance, sat down, and finished "Kubla Khan." (AS)
6. Fireplace at Gilmore last functioning portal to hell in the Northeast. (IYF)
5. The male-female ratio is such that even a math/science teacher can score. (EMS)
4. A moose once enrolled in "The Georgic Tradition." He got an A-. (AS)
3. All Bread Loaf students take the pledge to speak
In blank verse o'er the course of every week. (IYF)
2. The members of Inn Your Face are actually Oliver Green-Lewis and Victor Luftig. (IYF)
1. Most of us can read. (AS)

The Crumb

The Daily Bulletin of the Bread Loaf School of English in Vermont

Volume 88, Number 32

Thursday, August 9, 2007

Quotable

*"The woods are
lovely, dark, and
deep,*

*But I have
promises to keep,*

*And miles to go
before I sleep,*

*And miles to go
before I sleep."*

-Robert Frost

Events

Friday

Senior Prom 9-1

Saturday

Picnic 12:30

Banquet 6:00

Commencement

8:30, Theater

Closing Reception

Afterwards, Barn

Sunday

Breakfast 6-9

Farewell

Ellen visited the old Pine one last time that summer, and when he observed signs of the melancholy – an emotion that seldom clouded her visage – about her, he inquired as to whether aught was grieving her.

"He is an observant old Pine," Ellen said, "for melancholy I am. It is time for me to leave this place – leave *you*, dear Pine – and I know not when I shall return. Is that not sad?"

"It may well be. But the old Pine would like to know *why* Ellen finds it sad to leave."

"For oh so many reasons!" replied Ellen. "Because of the many friends I have made here, certainly. Because of the green fields, and the river, and the woods! But most of all, old Pine, because *you* are here, and whither I go, you cannot go. And after all that you have taught me, there shall be no more lessons, and no more talks, and no more pleasant afternoons together. Now do you wonder that I am not merrier?"

The old Pine rested awhile in thought, then answered: "The things Ellen values are indeed 'the good,' and the old Pine is honored that Ellen holds our days together in such high esteem. But if Ellen remembers our lesson on PROPORTIONALITY, and applies its principles to the emotions, then she will perhaps agree that the degree of sadness at the item lost is proportionate to the amount of joy derived from that same item."

"Ellen thinks the Pine wise," she responded, "for indeed, her visit to this place has been full of wonders and joys she will long remember."

"The old Pine hopes he does not flatter himself to hazard that he holds a place among those memories which Ellen will take with her when she departs. And if it be so," he continued, for Ellen's tears were to him wordless signs that it was indeed so, "then truly Ellen shall never be without the old Pine, nor he without her, older though she grows and far from him though she may call home."

For a short while the only sounds were the gentle whispering of the breeze and the calls of the songbirds – but in time Ellen stood and said, quietly, "Has not the old Pine oft said to Ellen that the purpose of Life is to pursue the True, and the Good, and the Beautiful?"

"Ellen knows that he has," the Pine replied.

"Then Ellen has learned where all three may be found," she told the Pine. "For was not your intent in urging me to strive for those qualities in itself pure and noble? And do not the recognitions of the student shine reflected glory upon the teacher? It is *YOU*, dear Pine, that are the True, and the Good, and the Beautiful. So Ellen thinks, and so shall Ellen believe for the rest of her days."

It matters not in what manner or with what words they parted, but part they soon did, Ellen vanishing into the forest that led to the wider world and the old Pine resuming his watch over his mountain home, silent only until another came to live and to learn in his branches' soft embrace.

The End